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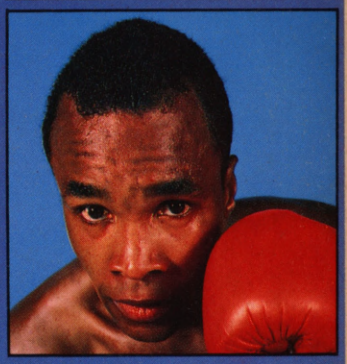
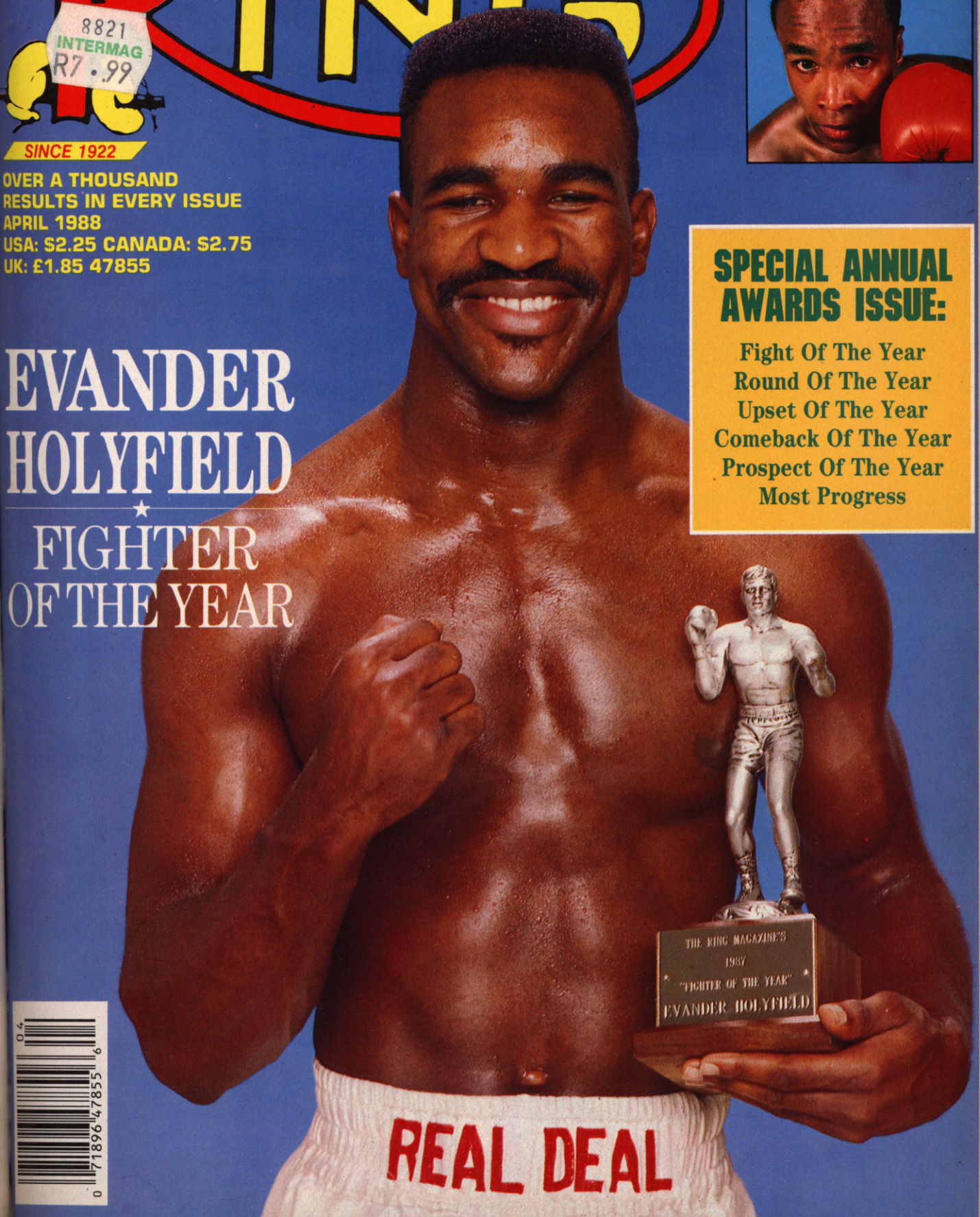


SPECIAL ANNUAL AWARDS ISSUE:

Fight Of The Year
Round Of The Year
Upset Of The Year
Comeback Of The Year
Prospect Of The Year
Most Progress

EVANDER HOLYFIELD
★
FIGHTER OF THE YEAR



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The RING

The bible of boxing

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April 1988, Vol. LXVII, No. 2. Cover photos by Will Hart (Holyfield) and Shelton Minor (Leonard).

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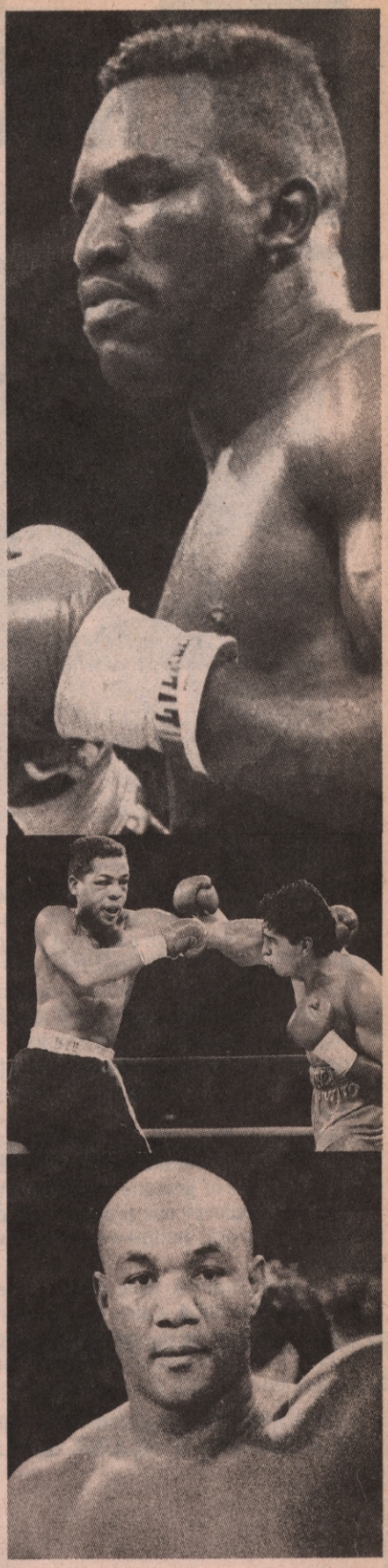

RingSide

THE RING
April, 1988 Vol LXVII, No. 2

"The Bible of Boxing"
Established 1922 by
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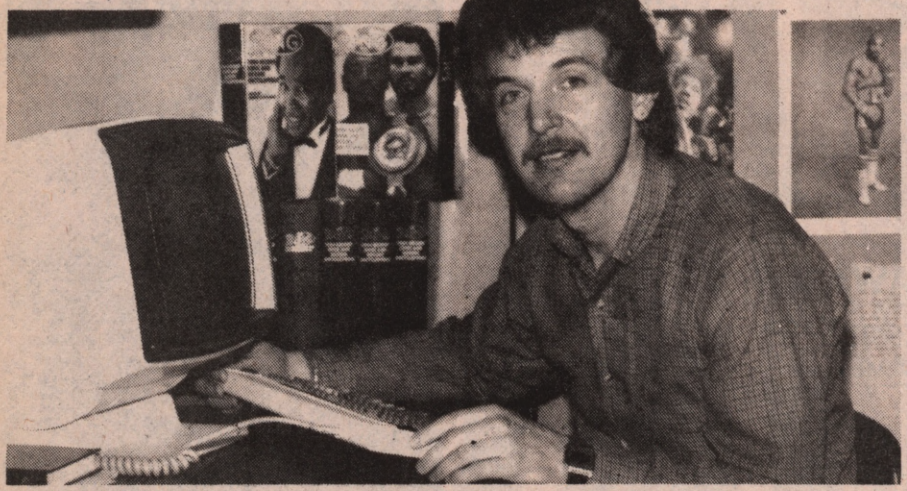

"AN OPEN LETTER TO MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER"

1/6/88

Dear Marvin,
Have we got a deal for you!

You seem a tad perturbed lately. You claim you were robbed of the middleweight title against Sugar Ray Leonard. You're bitter because Leonard re-retired — like he always said he would — instead of giving you a rematch. You want your old crown back, but you don't want to fight three guys to reunite a title you previously held outright.

Well, *The Ring* doesn't think you should have to, either. In fact, we have a better idea: Fight Thomas Hearns and *The Ring* will recognize the winner as the legitimate middleweight champion.

You and Tommy have earned the right to tell the Alphabet Boys to go to hell. Who cares who they recognize as champion? Remember, *The Ring* has always been, and will continue to be, the official chronicler of boxing history.

Governing bodies come and go, but *The Ring* is forever. In the coming decades, boxing historians will not refer to the Alphabet Boys, or the *TV Guide* for that matter, for a list of genuine world champions. No, they will turn to *The Ring*.

Should you accept our proposition and beat Hearns again, you'll be able to retire as *the* world middleweight champion, a dream you say you've always cherished.

If you don't want to face Hearns, then you should retire now and quit the unseemly bellyaching which has marred your public demeanor since the loss to Leonard.

Marvin, you were a great champion, but it's time to fish or cut bait. *The Ring* has provided you with a solution to your dilemma. Now it's up to you.

Yours in boxing,

Nigel Collins

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The RING SINCE 1922

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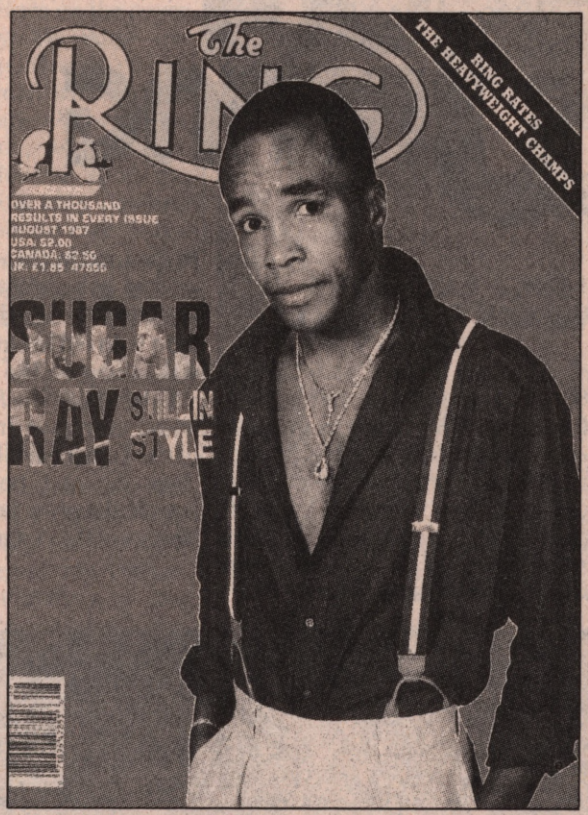

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Come Out Writing

JUST ANOTHER SWEDISH MEATBALL?

Well, I see we have another crying Swede. I am referring to the protest (from Olof Johansson) in the December '87 issue of *The Ring* in the "Come Out Writing" section. The Swedes have been crying in sports ever since the Paavo Nurmi days.

Who did (Ingemar) Johansson ever beat aside from the lucky first win over Patterson? In their second fight, Floyd hit him so hard he lay twitching like a slaughtered calf. And in his very last fight with old Brian London, Johansson was sitting on the canvas at the end.

I also think *The Ring* made a mistake when they gave Ingo his first Fighter of the Year award. So Olof, you'd better "buy it," and be happy Johansson wasn't listed in last place among the heavyweight champions.

H.J. LATVALA
Helsinki, Finland

RATING THE RATERS

It's very apparent to anyone who follows the fight game that most fans are subscribing to *The Ring's* philosophy regarding champions and ratings. In simpler terms, most fans see the Alphabet Boys and their ratings for what they are: absurd. It is also abundantly clear that the Alphabet Boys will continue to make fools of themselves. Therefore, I propose that you create an additional column in each issue of your magazine. This column would be dedicated to highlighting the ludicrous actions of the Alphabet Boys over the previous month. Also in this column, you could include the most boneheaded decisions over that same month. They would be rated first (or champion). The organization with the second most boneheaded decisions would be the No. 1 contender, and so on.

DAVE BIANUCCI
Alexandria, VA

Editor's Note: There wouldn't be enough space!

Reader H.J. Latvala doesn't think Sweden's Ingemar Johansson was so hot as a heavyweight champion. But what most readers don't know is that Ingo once moved up to the Hippo Division for the match pictured here. And at the time of this photo, he was on top. Ingo's the one wearing shoes.

By excluding certain weight categories and using the old standbys only, you are doing a better job of rating weight categories than rating fighters.

CHARLES RODGERS
Chicago, IL

BUMMED OUT IN BIRMINGHAM

Having just seen your new all-time light heavyweight championship ratings, I felt I had to write and express my disgust at some of the listings.

Whether Archie Moore is No. 1 or not, I don't know. But at least he's a credible choice. My main complaint concerns Michael Spinks at No. 2. This ranking is ridiculous. Spinks is the worst fighter I've ever seen. He has no coordination, staggers around the ring as though he's drunk and has one of the most awkward defenses I have ever seen. He must rank as the most overrated fighter ever ... even more overated than that clumsy robot, Carlos Monzon. How anybody can put Spinks ahead of Bob Foster is beyond me.

The late Nat Fleischer was often criticized for preferring turn-of-the-century fighters in his all-time rankings, but *The Ring* staff have now gone too far the other way. I'm still a fan of *The Ring* but let's get these rankings right.

G.P. MILLS
Birmingham, England

Editor's Note: Glad you're still a fan, but I shudder to think how you'll feel after reading our upcoming rankings of the middleweight champions. While we are still busy researching the article, I have a sneaking suspicion "That Clumsy Robot" might do rather well.

CHAVEZ THE BEST SINCE LEONARD

Julio Cesar Chavez is the best lightweight since Benny Leonard. He doesn't have to speak the language north of the border to smoke up a battle and ballyhoo a bout for the boob tube. Let Hector Camacho and Vinny Pazienza wear the fancy duds and tell the folks at home wrestling bull stories. "Little Cesar" does his talking with his fists. And unlike Camacho and Pazienza, he doesn't need hometown decisions to end up the winner.

MAX BODENHEIM
New York City

DEJA VU

Seeing Darrin Van Horn on the cover of your January '88 issue immediately called Sean O'Grady to mind.

Aside from looks (read: white), there are unmistakable parallels between the two fighters. O'Grady, you will remember, was also foisted upon the public as the real thing after bowling over a long line of tomato cans in his home town. O'Grady, likewise, had a leaky defense and was handled by his father. Can G.L. Van Horn's formation of the "VHBA" be far behind?

"IRISH" TOM HERLIHY
Pittsburg, CA

AIDS REBUTTAL

As a physician who frequently treats patients with AIDS, I dispute Doug Blackburn's notion that the optional use of gloves by referees and cornermen to avoid contamination by the AIDS virus is "a poorly conceived idea that needs to be reexamined." (*The Ring*, Jan. '88). Although a boxer with AIDS is probably in no shape to fight, most of the 1.5 million Americans who carry the AIDS virus feel perfectly well. Boxers, like all young men in our society, may also be homosexual or use intravenous drugs and may be carriers of the virus. Although not very likely, contact of their blood with an open wound on an uninfected person may occasionally spread the disease.

Surely, the great majority of fighters do not carry the AIDS virus. However, there are undoubtedly a few who are infected. It is not at all unreasonable that referees and cornermen who do not know the intimate details of the fighters' lives may choose to use the simple and effective precaution of wearing surgical gloves when coming into contact with their blood, just as thousands of hospital workers do on a daily basis with their patients.

MARK J. ROSEN, M.D.
Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY, NY

SHORT BUT SWEET

Your new calendar idea is great!

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Escondido, CA

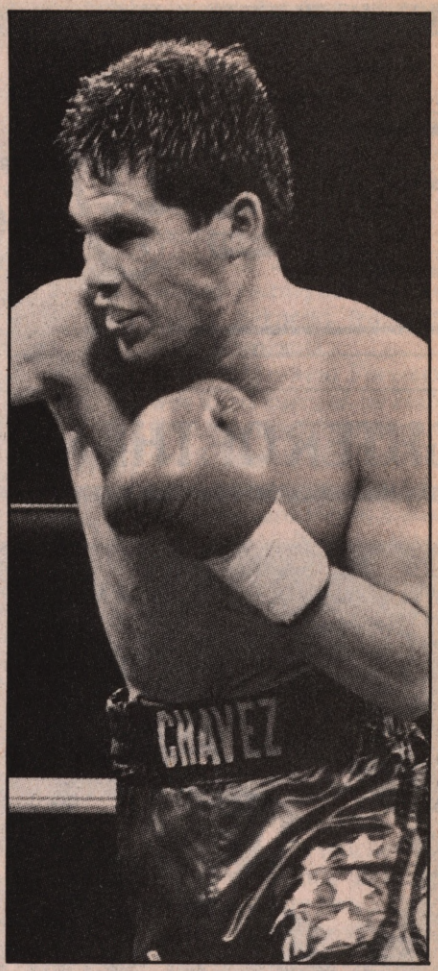


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Reader Max Bodenheim thinks Julio Cesar Chavez is the best lightweight since Benny Leonard. He might be right.

MANAGER'S PROTEST

My name is Jerry Hill and I manage and train the WBC Continental American middleweight champion Ricky Stackhouse. We fought a No. 8 rated (IBF,WBC) middleweight Herol Graham over in Doncaster, England, December 5, 1987. It was a good fight up until the eighth round when the referee stopped the fight, saying that Stackhouse was taking too much punishment, which he wasn't. Herol Graham was getting tired and they didn't want to see their local fighter lose. I think it was unfair and I'm writing a protest to the British Boxing Board of Control asking them to change it to "no contest" because the referee shouldn't have stopped it. I think Herol Graham is a good fighter, but the referee shouldn't have stopped the fight.

JERRY HILL
Atlanta, GA

Ring Side Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY SHELTON MINOR

Fighter of the Month Evander Holyfield has Dwight Qawi on the way to the canvas in the fourth and final round of their rematch in Atlantic City.

When you're hot you're hot. And **Evander Holyfield** sure is hot. Not only is he *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year for '87, he's also this issue's Fighter of the Month by virtue of his fourth-round kayo over Dwight Muhammad Qawi. Not only did Holyfield successfully defend both his WBA junior heavy and IBF cruiserweight titles, he sent a message to Michael Spinks and Mike Tyson: Look out! "The Real Deal" is gunning for the heavyweight throne.

This month's runner-up spot goes to **Tony Willis,** who scored a come-from-behind kayo over highly rated Ramzi Hassan in the 12th round to win the vacant USBA 175-pound belt in Los Angeles.

Honorable mention goes to Korean star **Jung-Koo Chang,** who had to come off the floor to retain his WBC light flyweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over tough Mexican challenger Isidro Perez. The victory was Chang's 14th successful defense of the title, topping the previous division record of 13 set by Japan's Yoko Gushiken.

Also worthy of note was **Jeff Franklin,** who upset former world featherweight champion Steve Cruz over 10 action-packed rounds to earn a spot among the top 10 126-pounders in the world. □

HOLYFIELD-QAWI

WBA Jr. Heavyweight Title
IBF Cruiserweight Title

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ—EVANder Holyfield successfully defended his WBA crown for the third time and his IBF addendum for the second with a crushing KO of the man from whom he won the former, Dwight Muhammad Qawi.

The rematch, which took 17 months to arrive, had a tough act to follow. The split decision that gave Evander his first title capped one of the all-action classics of that year, if not the decade, and would have been murderous to top. This one didn't. But it was still a good fight and, with all the ramifications that swirled around it, no one seemed to notice.

When Qawi was counted out at 2:30 of the fourth of a scheduled 15, it marked the emergence of Holyfield as not just another titleholder, but the next serious threat to Mike Tyson after Larry Holmes and possibly Michael Spinks. It also may have spurred the retirement of the challenger, a former world light heavyweight champion who brought nothing but excitement and color to boxing as one of the sport's most improbable success stories. And, there was the continuing resurgence of Atlantic City as a big-fight challenger to Las Vegas. Once again, the now-bustling Convention Hall hosted the event, this time under the auspices of Caesars Hotel & Casino.

The challenger had blustered his way in behind a mixture of menace and melodrama. He sincerely believed the "boxing establishment" favored the clean-cut Olympian Holyfield and felt he was robbed of his title by the decision in their first meeting. His suspicions were confirmed by the Ossie Ocasio disgrace.

"The bad guys invite each other to parties, they rub shoulders and they whisper," said Qawi. "But they're all in agreement to who they want to be the winner of any particular fight.

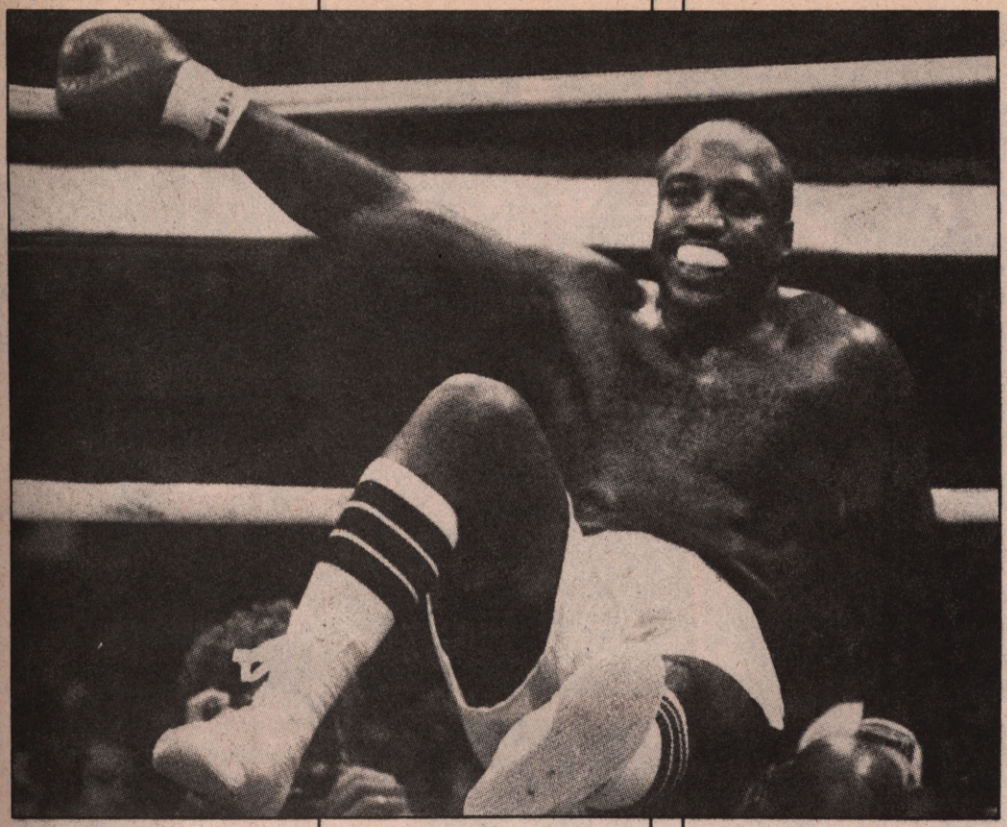
"To me, Holyfield is a pawn," he added. "They can't steal it from me if I beat the crap out of the guy. I'm going to hurt him bad. I'm going to ruin him. When I get through with him, he's not going to want to go in a ring ever again. I'm going to take the boxing life right out of him."

The taciturn champion replied typically, saying, "I know Qawi, and he's a nice person. He tries to psyche people out. You can't believe everything he says. What he tries to do is get you so angry that you fight his fight instead of yours."

The action stuck to that scenario ... sort of. The problem for the challenger was that the champion always had an answer.

"You'll run," Qawi had charged. "You will not stand and fight me like a man ...

PHOTO BY SHELTON MINOR



It's the end of the line for Dwight Qawi as he is counted out in the fourth round of his match with Evander Holyfield. The former WBC light heavyweight and WBA junior heavyweight champ decided to retire after suffering the only knockout loss of his outstanding career.

I mean toe-to-toe. Don't give me your back and your side and do all that running around the ring. You say you can punch like a heavyweight. Prove it, sucker."

Evander did both. He started out circling and jabbing with the challenger in hot pursuit. Holyfield, 187, boxed well and was clearly in command by the second round. But that wasn't the fight Qawi, 190, Lindenwold, NJ, or the fans wanted. In the third, Qawi took it inside and Holyfield, as he lated admitted, couldn't stop him. They stood and traded as the challenger jolted the champion a couple times with long left hooks and overhand rights. The rangy Holyfield greeted the stubby Qawi's crouching defense by digging short hooks to the body, then bringing them up to the chin in a close, exciting round.

But in the fourth the action surprised everyone with its explosive end. Qawi was going backward, not his best move, in seeming frustration when he was suddenly dumped onto the seat of his pants by a left hook to the ribs. It was the first time Qawi had been knocked down and he seemed more embarrassed than hurt. But that may have been his undoing. Both dug in their toes in a blazing exchange as if they just had to end it there. Qawi hurled a screaming right over the top, but dipped into a perfect, short right counter underneath that spun him around and onto the canvas where ref Randy Neumann counted him out, dropping his record to 28-5-1.

On the undercard, Mark Breland, 146, Bedford-Stuyvesant, pecked out a dreary shutout over Javier Suazo, 147, Tucson, over 10. Breland, 19-1, drew yawns for a monotonous stream of jabs and an occasional one-two. But Suazo, 17-4-1, clearly didn't want to fight. Ref, Joe O'Neil.

In contrast, Darrin Van Horn, 157, Lexington, Kentucky, got a bristling workout in winning a unanimous decision over Joe Summers, 156, Salem, NJ, in a crowd-pleasing 10. The longshot underdog took everything Van Horn had, but kept pitching to the wire. Van Horn went to 34-0, while Summers dropped to 7-2. Ref, Ted Pick.

Reggie Johnson, 162, Houston, won a unanimous verdict over Sidney Outlaw, 164¾, Philadelphia, in an all-southpaw six. After a couple of rounds of mixing, Johnson turned cautious, and the bout turned dull. Ref O'Neil.

Manny Contreras, 190, Caguas, Puerto Rico via Coventry, Rhode Island, KO'd Jerry Rash, 197, Elkton, Maryland, with a right-hand bomb at 0:42 of the second of a wild scheduled six. Ref, Pick.

Promoter: Dan Duva/Main Events/Monitor Productions.

Matchmaker: Johnny Bos.

TV: Showtime.

Judges: Frank Cairo, Eugene Grant, Phil Newman, John Stewart, Thomas Kaczmarek & Charlie Spina.

Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert.

Announcer: Ed Derian.

Attendance: 4,800.

(12-5-87)

J.R. JOWETT

FOREMAN-SEKORSKI

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—SHORTly before the Christmas holidays and a month short of his 40th birthday, former world heavyweight champion George Foreman returned to Las Vegas for the first time since 1976.

In his last previous visit, Foreman stopped Ron Lyle in four rounds of a bout in which both went down twice. This time, the assignment was Top Rank's 10-round main event at Bally's against a 29-year-old, unranked journeyman named Rocky Sekorski from St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 244-pound Foreman was in no hurry as he clubbed the willing, but outgunned Sekorski to the brink of unconsciousness before referee Richard Steele halted the rout at 2:48 of the third. Sekorski can still claim he has never been off his feet, but his record dipped to 20-7 with nine KOs. The Minnesota gamer's feet were okay, but his rugged features were acquiring lumpy hues of purplish crimson as Foreman proved the firepower was still there. That Sekorski never touched the floor was slightly amazing.

The victory was Foreman's fifth straight KO since he ended a 10-year hiatus last March 9. Holding the best KO percentage in history, Foreman is now 50-2 with 47 knockouts.

Promoter Bob Arum feels Foreman left no doubt there is still a touch of charisma when he steps into the ring. A standing-room-only assembly of 2,700 was on hand.

"This was a tougher fight than Joe Frazier," said Foreman. "Sekorski came to win. He hit me with a good right. No, make that a bad right. As soon as he hit me, it brought back memories of Teddy Brenner (Top Rank's matchmaker in New York). They don't make easy matches. This guy hit me, and then I'd hit him. He'd just sort of grunt."

Actually, the assignment wasn't as pressure-packed as the former champion implied. Foreman is still lethal

against a target that stands still and flails away a la Sekorski. After the first round, when Foreman landed 21 of 36 punches, unofficially, the 1968 Olympic heavyweight champion remained standing in his corner with his right foot on the ring stool. It regaled the spectators.

"I did that because it's so boring to sit down between rounds," said Foreman. "That minute seems like it's forever. Sometimes I like to look out at the crowd, sometimes hollering, 'It's good to see you, Charley.'

"I've taken my Geritol," he added. "I'm just 38, not 39 like some of you media people have been saying. Anyway, age 40 isn't a death sentence. In the Sekorski fight, I thank God for the good referees in the world. They once came to the rescue of Frazier and Ken Norton, and tonight they came to help Rocky Sekorski."

Foreman appeared huge against the 5-10 Sekorski, who weighed 209, but he didn't have much trouble punching down at his crouching opponent, who refused to heed cornerman Joe Daszkiewicz's pleas to "stick and move." There was one juncture in the second round when big George struck Sekorski with seven booming right hands to the chops. Sekorski wobbled, and his bang-styled hair shook in the air, but he hung in despite taking two rights and two lefts at the bell. Foreman opened the third still delivering one bomb at a time. Sekorski did leap to land one solid right to Foreman's jaw, but the big fellow hardly blinked. Foreman then stunned Sekorski with consecutive shots to the jaw and body. The battered Sekorski finally got the message and started backing up, but Foreman didn't let him get away.

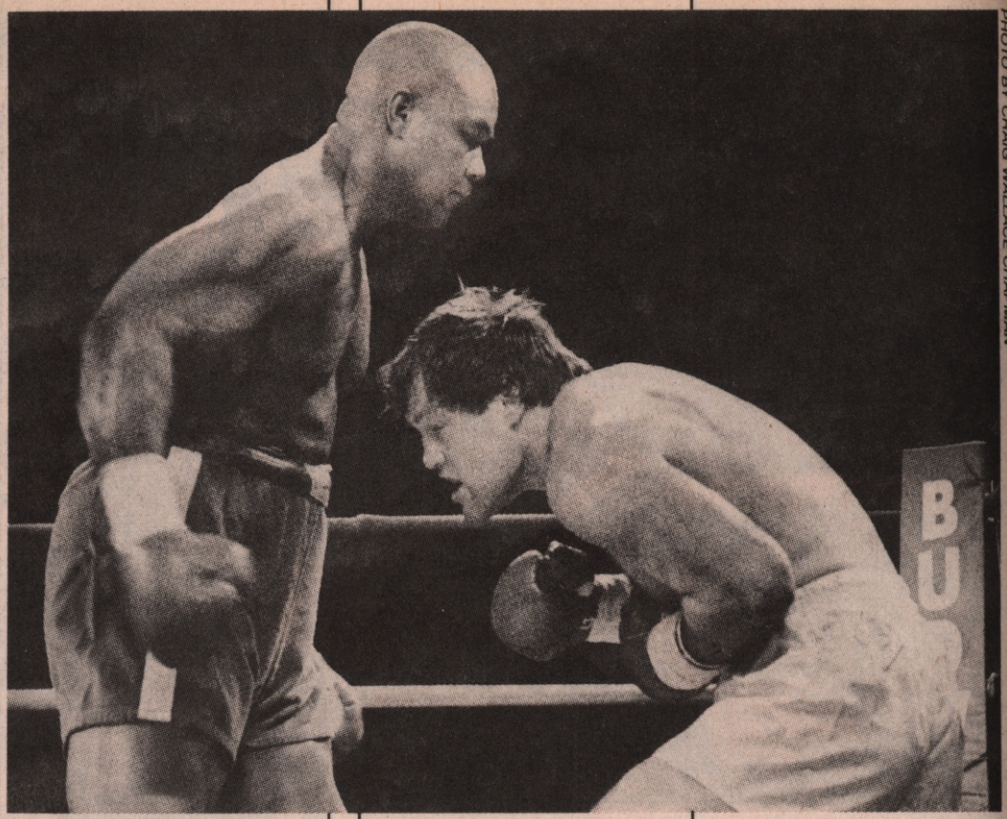


PHOTO BY CRAIG WALLACE CHAPMAN

George Foreman (left) gets set to unload a roundhouse right as Rocky Sekorski braces himself for the impact. Foreman prevailed via a third-round TKO for his fifth straight comeback victory.

Foreman knocked Sekorski sideways with two combinations to the jaw and Steele stepped in an instant after Foreman's final left hook snapped Sekorski's ample head sideways.

Sekorski, an auto body repairman, had scored his biggest victory over a name fighter August 2, 1986, when he stopped former world champion Leon Spinks in six rounds. He had also fought Italy's Francesco Damiani and Brazil's Adilson Rodriguez, losing 10-round decisions to each. But it was Foreman drawing his verbal respect.

"Foreman belongs in the top 10 ratings," said Sekorski.

(12-18-87)

JACK WELSH

FRANKLIN-CRUZ

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—When boxing polls its biggest surprises of 1987, the selectors will find a worthy candidate in Las Vegas' Jeff Franklin.

The 25-year-old Franklin continued to baffle detractors of his "good field, no hit" modus operandi with his second straight upset victory at Bally's on the Strip. Franklin also recorded the biggest score of his five-year career when he outhustled former world featherweight champion Steve Cruz to win a unanimous, but close 10-round decision in a Top Rank co-feature televised nationally by ESPN.

Previously, the former airline employee stopped the undefeated run of Tracy Harris Patterson at 20 straight, winning a 10-round nod over Patterson, the adopted son of former heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson.

Raising his credentials to 18-2 with only seven KOs, Franklin admittedly relied on a stick-and-move assault. It didn't betray him against the more experienced Cruz, who never really warmed to the task. Cruz, 28-2 with 14 KOs, appeared the harder puncher, especially with hooks to the body, but Franklin was the constant aggressor who countered effectively every time the handsome Texan appeared to sting him with chopping rights to the jaw. Cruz also shook Franklin with combinations inside on several occasions. But just when it appeared the former 126-pound champion was ready to assume command, he backed off.

In the scoring, judges Dave Moretti and Jerry Roth agreed with *The Ring* card, which showed 96-95. Cindi Bartin had it 99-92.

Henry Anaya, 146½, Albuquerque, New Mexico, moved to 5-0 when he dropped Mark Strickland, 145, Williston, North Dakota, three times to win on a first-round TKO at 2:00. Strickland dropped to 3-1 with three KOs.

Eloy Montano, 135, Albuquerque, posted a unanimous six-round decision over Las Vegas' Tim Mosley, 136, for his third straight victory.

Irish Dan Morgan, 162, Minneapolis, recorded a third-round TKO when Tim Lillard, 162, Pasadena, California, couldn't answer the bell for the third of a scheduled six.

Karama Leota, 160, Salt Lake City, Utah, used a heavy body assault to wear down James Williams, 160½, Tucson, Arizona, to win on a TKO when the latter reported an injury to his right hand.
(12-18-87)

JACK WELSH

CHANG-PEREZ
WBC Light Flyweight Title

TAEJON, KOREA—JUNG-Koo Chang, "The Korean Hawk," managed to retain his WBC light flyweight throne though he was knocked down in the first round by Mexican Isidro Perez.

Chang fought back furiously after being decked, winning a close, but unanimous decision after 12 hard-fought rounds in Chungmu Gymnasium.

Perez, who matched Chang's 107½ pounds, was regarded as a dangerous opponent with a fine record of 42-3-3 with 35 knockouts. Though he was scheduled to have a crack at the WBC crown before, it was delayed when he was stopped in the fifth round by compatriot Willie Salazar last March. Perez suffered a fractured jaw and that, along with Chang's personal problems, caused this bout to be postponed three times. The champion's family failed in investing his previous purses in a restaurant business, which eventually came to naught. But, Chang responded to the challenge in spite of the mental distractions.

The 27-year-old Mexican, at 5-6 three inches taller than the 24-year-old Korean, started fireworks from the start, catching Chang with a looping left hook to the jaw. Chang went to the seat of his trunks after only a minute had passed. Perez went all out for the KO, but Chang grabbed the challenger to avert another big punch.

Chang dominated the next three rounds as he tried to get close to the pugnacious challenger to mix it up. Perez was not at his best exchanging in close quarters. But Perez used his jab and a right cross to gain the advantage in the fifth and sixth frames. Chang dominated the seventh, but suffered a cut over the left eyebrow in the next session and the gash streamed blood until the fight's end.

The Korean showed his best in Round 10, exploding solid one-twos that had the Mexican reeling into the ropes on several occasions, and Chang continued his aggressiveness in the 11th.

But Perez amazed the crowd in the 12th as he dominated clearly, attacking with solid rights and still-fast combinations.

Japanese judge Takeaki Kanaya scored 117-113, with Dave Moretti and Chuck Williams, both of the United States, seeing it 115-113 and 114-113, respectively. *The Ring* saw the hard-fought affair 115-113 for the more aggressive Chang, who raised his record to 34-1 with 14 KOs.

Chang, with his left eye bloody and his right optic swollen, admitted, "This was my toughest fight, but my fight plan was successful, though I was floored in the first round. I kept punching him in the close range."

Promoter: Ho-Yun Chun's Kukdong Promotions.
Referee: Carlos Padilla.
(12-13-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

PARK-GALLARDO
WBA Super Middleweight Title

PUSAN, KOREA—THE WBA established a super middleweight class with a 168-pound limit at its annual convention in Costa Rica in October. The division previously had only been recognized by the IBF, whose champion, Korean Chong-Pal Park, defended his title eight times.

However, Park decided to relinquish his IBF title to fight in a WBA eliminator to establish that group's first champion. Park, 168, was floored in the first round, but got up to register a fine stoppage of Mexican Jesus Gallardo, 165, at 27 seconds of the second round in their scheduled 12 at Sajik Gymnasium.

It was a short, but terrific battle.

The taller Gallardo landed a well-timed southpaw left early in the opening session that put Park flat on the canvas, face-first. The Korean pulled himself up, retaliated with a flurry of punches and floored the Mexican for a mandatory eight count. Gallardo was rubber-legged and hit the deck again from Park's punishment.

The give-and-take round had the crowd in a frenzy.

No sooner had the second session begun than Park exploded a lethal straight right. Gallardo was knocked senseless with his upper body twisted and referee Carlos Berrocal of Panama called a stoppage without a count, holding the Mexican up to save him from crashing to the canvas. The referee's timing was beautiful.

Park, 45-3-2 with 38 knockouts, received $50,000, while Gallardo pocketed $40,000, but fell to 19-2 with 17 KOs.

On the undercard, veteran Mexican Marcos Geraldo, 162¾, displayed his power in demolishing Korean middleweight champ Jae-Ok Kim, 161½, in just 2:58 of the semifinal 10.

Promoter: Hyun-Chi Kim's Dong-A Promotions
(12-6-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

GERVACIO-ESPINOZA
WBA Jr. Featherweight Title

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—Entering the ring a decided underdog, Julio Gervacio scored a major upset when he outpointed WBA junior featherweight champion Louie Espinoza in 12 exciting rounds in the Roberto Clemente Stadium.

The ebony-hued Gervacio was not given much chance by local scribes because of his limited experience, Gervacio holding a 14-0-2 record to Espinoza's 25-1, which included knockout wins over Dominican Tommy Valoy, Venezuelan Manuel Vilchez and Texan Mike Ayala earlier this year. Gervacio, on the other hand, had not faced anyone of note.

But from the start, Gervacio took command by outpunching his slow-footed rival and effectively combining crisp left jab-hooks with surprising right-hand leads. The champion did not mount an effective attack until the third heat, which he took by a slight margin. Referee Ernesto Magana failed to hear the bell ending that session and the slugfest continued for over 10 seconds after the round had concluded.

Gervacio regained command in the fourth by refusing to mix, instead using his superior boxing skill. A solid left hook staggered Espinoza in the sixth, helping to build a 5-1 lead in rounds for Gervacio.

However, Espinoza came to life in the seventh and eighth, connecting with solid blows to the head as

his opponent appeared to lose strength from the fast pace.

But Gervacio picked up his second wind in the ninth and was never headed again. His combinations to the head and body, his rapid-fire left jabs and his right leads were too much for Espinoza, who nearly faced disaster in the 12th when he was dropped by a hard left to the head.

The decision was unanimous for Gervacio, a Dominican who has done all of his fighting in Puerto Rico. Panamanian judge Humberto Figueroa scored it 116-113, while Venezuelan judges Jesus Celis and Angel Custodio Villar called it 116-112 and 117-114, respectively. *The Ring* had it scored 117-111 for Gervacio.

The semifinal 10 saw Lou Duva prospect John John Molina boost his record to 16-1 with a four-round TKO over Fernando Maldonado. It was an important win for Molina as Maldonado, who suffered a broken nose, is also a fine prospect.

Another 10 saw Danny Garcia, the WBA's eighth-ranked welter, score a one-round KO over Miami-based Johnny Valentine. Garcia is shooting for a match with Marlon Starling.

A third 10 saw Jose de Jesus (19-1) score a four-round TKO over Victor Cruz (10-4) in a bantamweight bout.

Flyweight Wilfredo Vargas continued his winning streak when he KO'd Alfred Valdez in the second.

Wilfredo's brother, Angel, also continued his winning streak when he scored an eight-round decision over the evasive Americo Rivera in a bantam bout.

Promoter: Video Deportes.
(11-28-87)

MARIO MARTINO

LALONDE-DAVIS
WBC Light Heavyweight Title

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD—Canadian Don Lalonde captured the vacant WBC light heavyweight title with a second-round knockout of New York's Eddie Davis.

Davis came in to the fight a 3-1 favorite despite the fact he is 36 years old and had already lost two tries for the light heavyweight title. Now, the 27-year-old Lalonde must return to Trinidad to defend against former WBA champion Leslie Stewart, who has won once — a TKO over Dawud Shaw on this undercard — since being knocked out by Virgil Hill!

Lalonde was quickly cut over the left eye, but Davis, who hadn't fought for 14 months, didn't get a chance to show how he "earned" his third title opportunity as Lalonde floored him twice in the opening round with right hands. The second flooring came at the bell, and Puerto Rican referee Ismael Quinones Falu counted to eight as Davis just made it to his feet.

Still shaky coming out for the second, Davis was quickly overpowered by Lalonde, who pushed his opponent against the ropes and leveled him with another right. This time, the referee didn't even bother to count, stopping the slaughter just 22 seconds into the frame.

Though he had been inactive, Davis had been ranked No. 1 by the WBC, which vacated its title when Thomas Hearns moved back down to the middleweight division. Meanwhile, Lalonde was ranked No. 2, apparently on the basis of a May 7 decision over shopworn former middleweight contender Mustafa Hamsho. The only previous "contender" Lalonde had faced was Willie Edwards, and Edwards stopped him!

On the undercard, Stewart "earned" his third shot at a "world title" by stopping Shaw in the fourth round of a scheduled 10. Stewart seemed shaken by a right in the first round, but he proved too strong for Shaw, who was covering up when his corner tossed in the towel.
(11-27-87)

Donny Lalonde fires a right hand into the face of Eddie Davis during their brief encounter for the vacant WBC light heavyweight title. The bout was stopped in the second round after the shopworn Davis had suffered a total of four knockdowns.

PHOTO BY CARL NEWALTO

LORA-MINUS
WBC Bantamweight Title

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA—Colombia's Miguel "Happy" Lora retained his WBC bantamweight title and remained undefeated by winning an easy 12-round decision over his former sparring partner, Ray Minus of the Bahamas.

Minus, who had not fought any top contenders in putting together a 21-4-1 record, was a 4-1 underdog, the odds reflecting his ability to go more than six rounds, not to win the fight. But his dancing and quickness gave him the chance to go all the way, even though he was floored in the sixth round by a left hook-right combination.

Lora did not appear as strong as in previous bouts, but Minus stayed far away from him whenever possible. Still, the champion

managed to bloody the nose and mouth of his opponent as he pushed his record to 28-0.

Judge Tony Castellano of New York scored 117-110, Mexico's Anselmo Escovedo had it 118-111 and Venezuela's Antonio Moreno called it 120-116, scoring nine rounds even!

Colombia's Amancio Castro, *The Ring's* No. 10-ranked lightweight, highlighted the undercard by winning a unanimous, 10-round decision over former WBA junior lightweight titleholder Alfredo Layne of Panama. Layne was floored in the second and fifth rounds as his record slipped to 14-9-1. Castro is 24-4-2.

Luis "Kid" Monzote, a native of Havana, won a unanimous decision and the WBC Continental Americas junior flyweight title from former champ Amado Urzua. It was a boring, mauling bout with Monzote upping his record to 16-3 as Urzua fell to 34-20.

Heavyweight sensation Milton Bowen made it five straight first-round knockouts as he flattened Georgia's Mike McFadden in the first of a scheduled six. McFadden, whose record fell to 6-3, outweighed Bowen by 22 pounds and was much taller, but it didn't stop Bowen from flooring him three times.

Middleweight Ali Sanchez, formerly of Cuba, scored the second win of his career when he knocked out Georgia's Ramon Beras in 14 seconds. Beras, a last-minute sub, was out for two minutes.

Manuel Murillo, Miami, stopped late sub Harry Daniels of Georgia in the third round of a light heavyweight bout.

Colombia bantamweight Prudencio Cardona stopped Miami's Teofilio Centano in just 1:37. Centano has lost his last nine bouts, never going more than six rounds and usually lasting only two or three.

Promoter: Ivette Promotions.

Matchmakers: Luis De Subas & Chris Dundee.

Referees: Steele (title bout), Dr. Billy Yoham & Bernie Sota.

Attendance: 3,500 (est.).

(11-27-87)

LOUIS ZIPKIN

HILL-ANGULO
WBA Light Heavyweight Title

PARIS, FRANCE—NORTH Dakota's Virgil Hill defended his WBA light heavyweight title for the first time, winning on points over French champion Rufino Angulo in Coubertin Stadium.

All three judges had Hill winning comfortably, Puerto Rico's Nelson Vazquez scoring 120-107, with Venezuela's Jesus Celis and Panama's Rodolfo Hill each seeing it 118-111.

Hill, an Olympic silver medalist, dropped Angulo in the opening round with a counter left hook. The 31-year-old challenger beat the count of British referee John Coyle just as the bell sounded ending the frame. Angulo recovered well, proving an aggressive foe, but Hill used his speed and boxing skill, particularly the left jab, to win handily.

Once in awhile, Angulo would land a good shot, but the 23-year-old Hill would fire right back, erasing any momentum the challenger hoped to gain before his hometown fans. The crowd booed Hill in the seventh when the champion connected with a low left hook, but Hill bowed in apology and the fans cheered the gesture.

The win raised Hill's log to 20-0 with 13 knockouts, Angulo, who suffered a bloody nose, dropped to 30-9-2. It was the first WBA title match to be contested over 12 rounds.

On the undercard, former French and European light heavyweight champ Richard Caramanolis fared better than his countryman when faced with Hill's sparring partner, Terrence Walker. Caramanolis floored the American three times and forced him to take a standing eight before the bout was stopped in the third.

French bantamweight Fabrice Benichou was wild, but still managed an eight-round verdict over American Sonny Long.

(11-21-87)

CANIZALES-CURTIS
USBA Bantamweight Title

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ—A STANDing ovation greeted the final bell, and well it should have. This was sparkling ring entertainment often advertised, but rarely visualized.

Tiny (they don't call him Heidi for nothing) Louis Curtis, 117, Washington, DC, and Gaby Canizales, 118, Houston, Texas, took the first two rounds to get acquainted, then proceeded to dazzle the crowd at Resorts International with 10 more rounds of bristling bravado before Canizales was awarded a majority decision and the vacant USBA bantamweight title, a title he had formerly held.

Curtis, a member of our 1976 Olympic team, was one gutsy little warrior with only one failure. As a bulked-up flyweight, he found himself caught in the middle of a bantamweight hurricane. For every determined thrust forward, Curtis could not conquer the fury of a finely tuned Canizales, who never looked better. The WBA bantam boss for a short spell in 1986, Canizales displayed vicious body punching and the cute turn-of-face defense to constantly negate any move by Curtis to take control.

Richard F. Murry scored 117-112, Frank Cairo, 115-113, and Milo Savage 115-115. The referee was Joe Cortez.

Canizales is 39-4 with 29 knockouts, while Curtis dropped his second straight, the previous loss coming to IBF bantam boss Kelvin Seabrooks, to fall to 13-2-1 with six KOs.

In one of the prelim moments of the year, Warren Nelson, 151, Philadelphia, came from far, far back to knock out Kevin Pompey, 150, Troy, New York, at 0:48 of the sixth and final round. Nelson might have had an edge in the first round, but that was about it as Pompey wheeled and dealed in fine fashion to blunt his dogged foe. But Nelson's doggedness paid off when he connected with a right over the just-completed left of Pompey, who went down, twisting face-first to the canvas. As he vainly struggled to right himself, referee Joe Cortez waved it over. Talk about a stunning turnaround!

Kevin Bucceroni, 198½, Blackwood, NJ, and Dennis Cain, 202¼, Hillcrest, Maryland, flailed away until a tired Cain was backed into a corner and dropped. Though Cain got up at five, referee Paul Venti stopped the scheduled four-rounder and awarded Bucceroni a TKO at 2:20 of Round Two.

In a comedy of errors, the pro debut of Donnell "Showtime" Jackson, 236, Hillcrest, was successful as he TKO'd flabby Ed Fennimore, 226½, Bristol, Pa., at 2:49 of the third, scheduled for four. Jackson just stuck out the jab all fight long and Fennimore had little defense to stop it and little offense to counter it. Finally, a nasty cut opened over the left eye of Fennimore and within seconds the bout was ended. Ref, Venti.

Switch-hitting Derrick Rolon, 148, Elizabeth, NJ, pummeled tall James Holmes, 151, Albany, right from the get-go. Holmes was punched right through the ropes and on to the ring apron and, while he did manage to regain his footing, he remained somewhat confused by it all, standing on the apron side of the ropes while Venti counted to 10. The result was a KO win for Rolon at 1:48 of the first, scheduled six.

Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert.

Promoter: HBA, Inc.

Matchmaker: Ron Katz.

TV: Bud Sports.

(11-27-87)

JACK OBERMAYER

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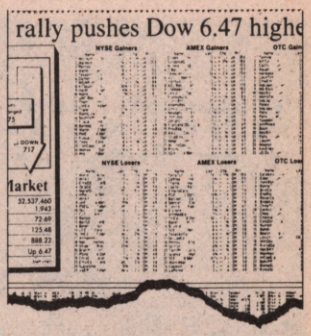

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PHOTO BY CARL NEWALLO

FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Holyfield Cleans Up Cruisers, Sets Sights On Heavyweight Throne

by Nigel Collins

1987 was a thumbs-up year for Evander Holyfield, THE RING'S Fighter of the Year.

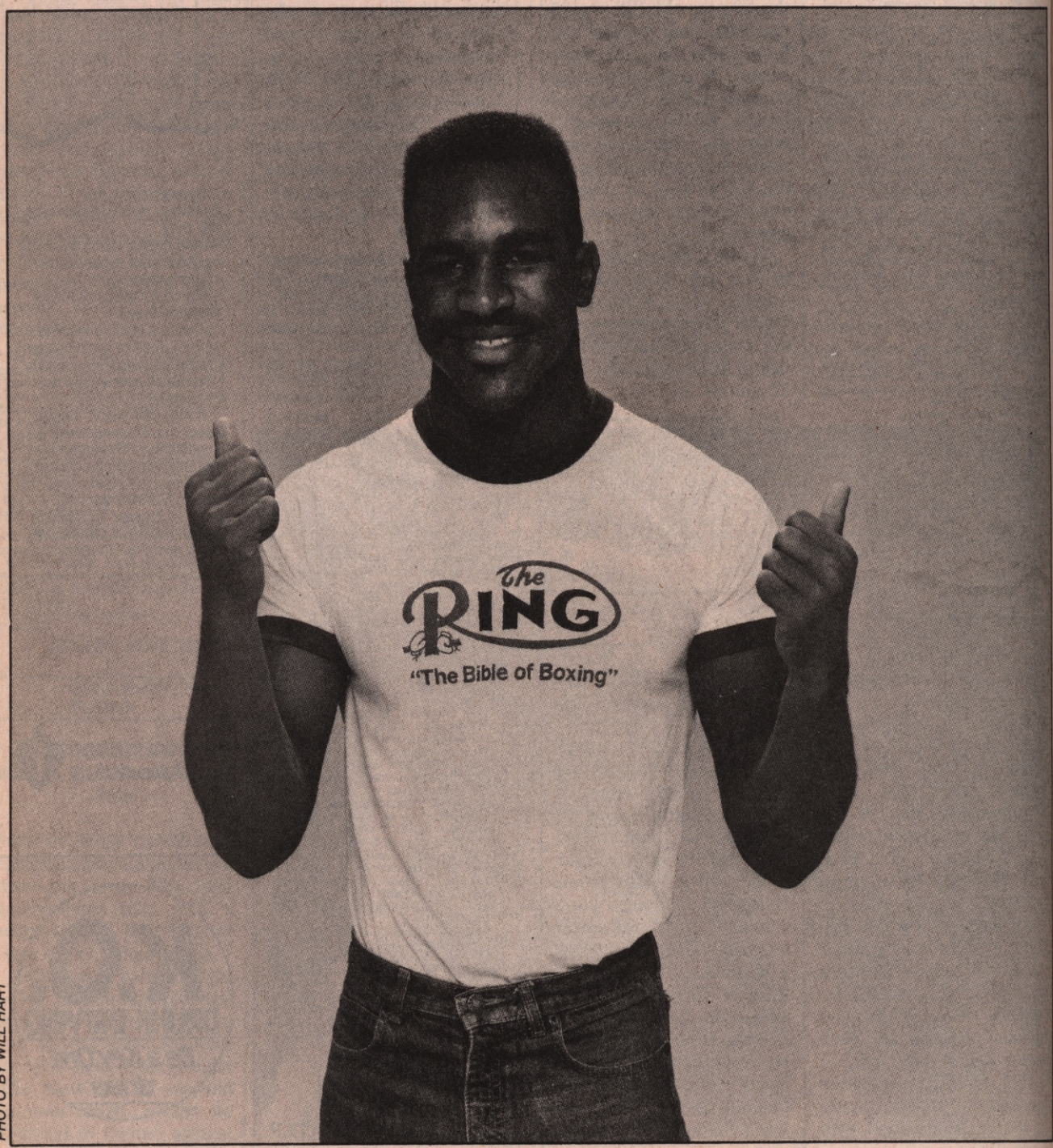


PHOTO BY WILL HART

THERE WAS MUCH SPIRITED DEBATE concerning *The Ring's* selection for 1987's Fighter of the Year. While many worthy candidates were considered, the final choice narrowed down to two boxers — Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson.

Our dilemma stemmed from the fact both men enjoyed outstanding years. There were a number of valid arguments on both sides of the dispute, and some of the verbal exchanges between staff members rivaled anything you've seen inside the ring during 1987. But in the end, after we had picked up the overturned office furniture and taken advantage of rudimentary first aid, Holyfield was the unanimous pick.

To be sure, Tyson had been boxing's standard-bearer throughout the year, easily the sport's most visible and well-known personality. Ask the first 10 people you meet on the street to name a boxer and nine will probably say "Mike Tyson." However, *The Ring* has a responsibility to delve a little deeper than the average "man on the street." Tyson was the obvious choice. But was he the best choice?

In order to retain its special significance, *The Ring's* top honor should go to the fighter who has consistently shown that he has been the best fighter in the world, pound-for-pound, during the past 12 months. The criterion for determining such a distinction has to be his collective performances inside the squared circle over the 12-month span in question.

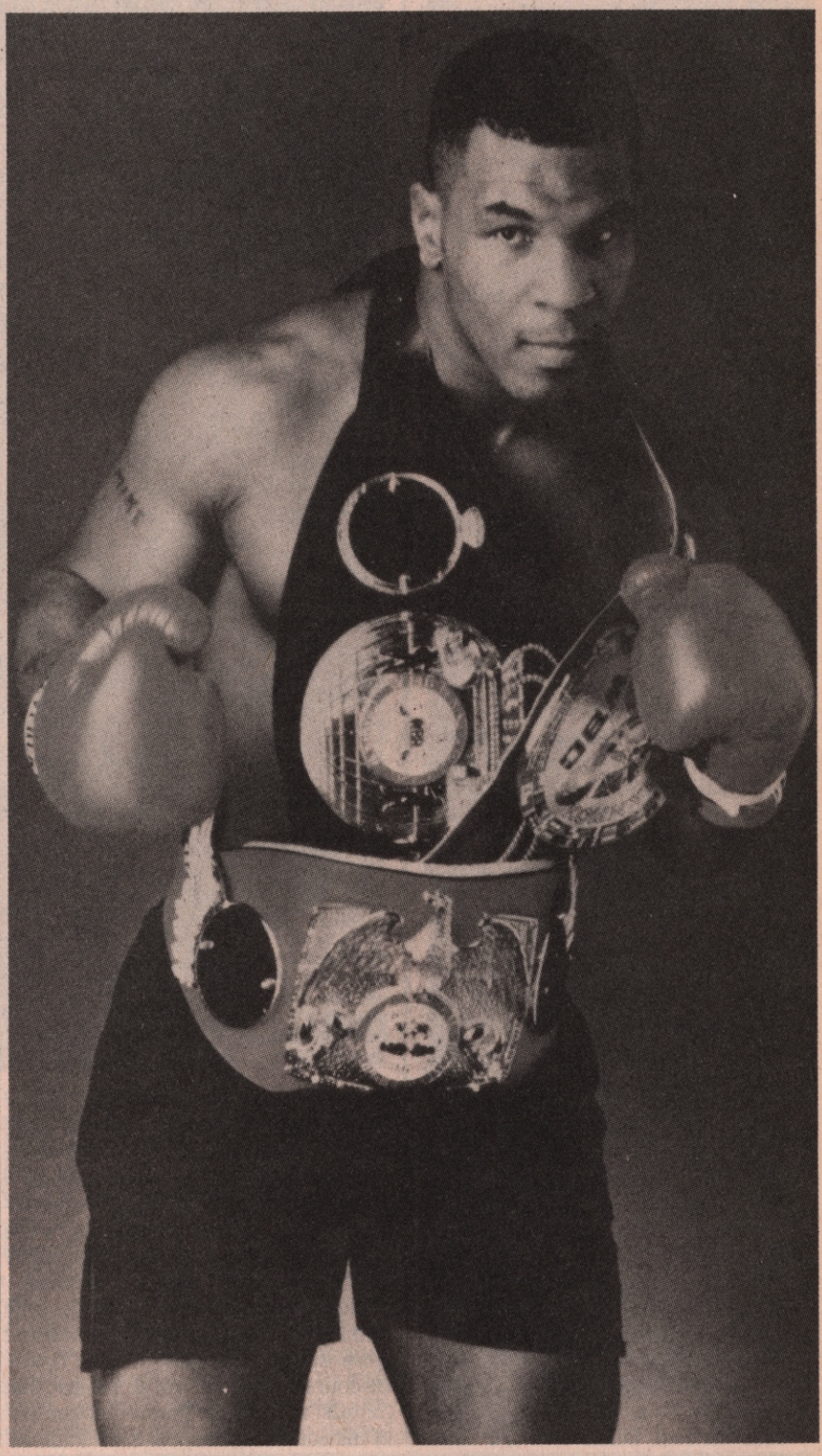
Tyson and Holyfield went to the post four times each in '87, each winning all four bouts to remain unbeaten as professionals. Let's inspect these eight fights and examine the factors which eventually led *The Ring* to select Holyfield over Tyson. We have assigned a letter grade to each performance to aid in understanding how we reached our final conclusion.

Holyfield's first outing of the year and his first defense of the WBA junior heavyweight championship came against friend and former Olympic teammate Henry Tillman in Reno, Nevada.

While subsequent events have proven Tillman was vastly overrated as a professional prospect, going into the match, a number of respected boxing experts figured he had the stuff to give Holyfield a run for his money. The fact Tillman had twice beaten Tyson in the amateurs gave him added credibility.

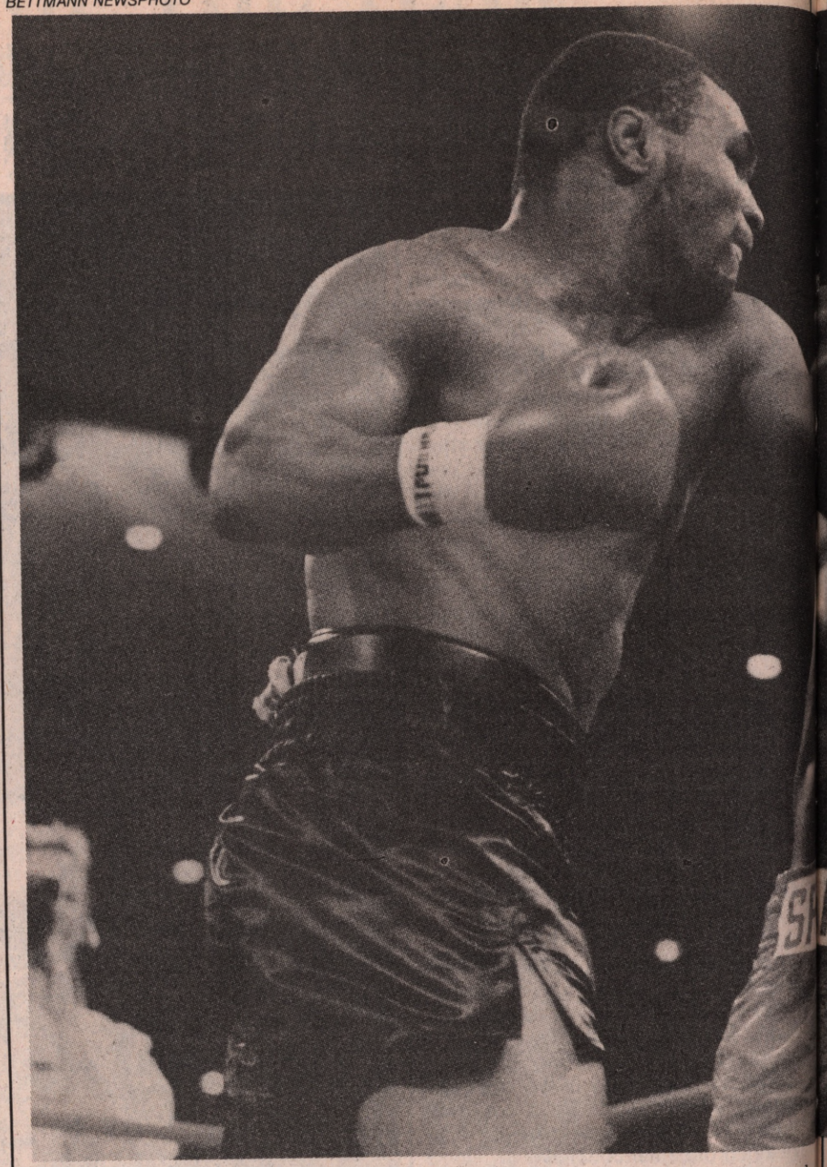
But once the opening bell rang, neither Tillman's amateur or pro credentials made any difference. As Christopher Coats, *The Ring's* man at ringside, reported: "The bout was billed as the 'St. Valentine's Day Massacre,' and that's exactly what it turned out to be — a massacre." Holyfield scored four knockdowns and finally stopped a badly battered Tillman 1:43 into the seventh. HOLYFIELD'S GRADE: A.

Tyson's first match of '87 is one he'd probably rather forget. So would we.



Multi-belted Mike Tyson was THE RING'S runner-up for 1987 Fighter of the Year honors.

BETTMANN NEWSPHOTO



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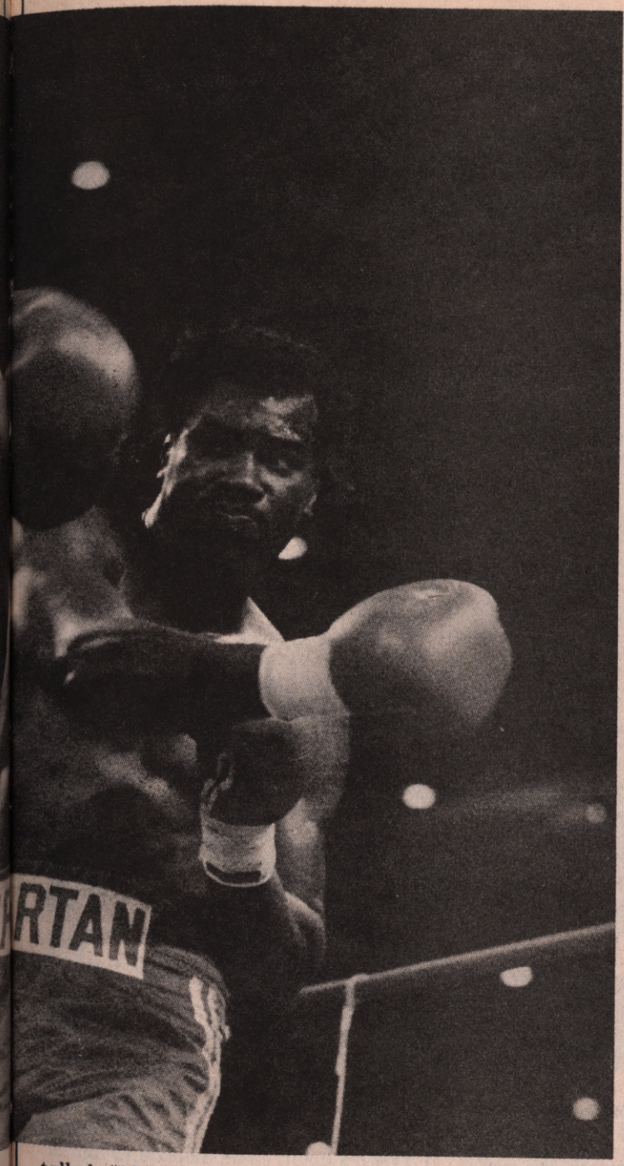
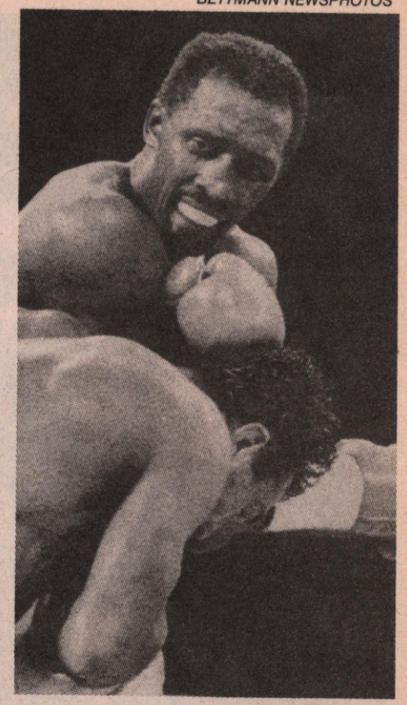
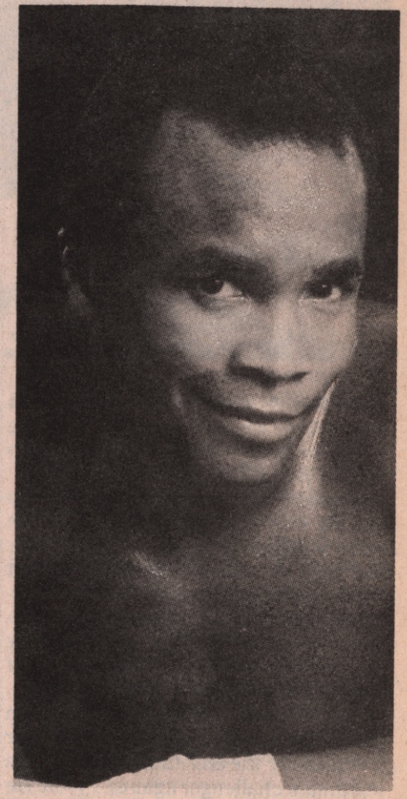


Thomas Hearns rebounded with a fine year in '87, winning pieces of both the light heavyweight and middleweight titles. He is pictured here on his way to a fourth-round kayo over Juan Roldan for the vacant WBC 160-pound crown.

Mike Tyson (left) and Tony Tucker swap leather during their showdown for the unified Alphabet Boys heavyweight title. Tyson, who won a unanimous decision, continued to dominate boxing headlines in '87, but fell just short of top honors in THE RING'S annual awards.

BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS





Despite the magnitude of his victory over Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard only received honorable mention for his lone 1987 ring appearance.

When James "Bonecrusher" Smith iced Tim Witherspoon for the WBA portion of the heavyweight crown late in '86, it set up what was expected to be a slugfest between Tyson and Smith for the combined WBC/WBA crowns. However, the resulting fight(?) was possibly the most disappointing match of the year.

"Bonecrusher," normally known for his punching prowess, suddenly turned into a reluctant dragon and spent practically the entire evening with his massive arms wrapped around Tyson's torso in an unseemly attempt to survive. "Boneclutcher" survived, but his reputation as one of boxing's most dangerous opponents didn't.

While it would not be fair to penalize Tyson for Smith's shoddy showing, "Iron Mike" wasn't exactly a ball of fire. As the fight and the clinches wore on, he became frustrated and failed to adjust his attack to compensate for Smith's negative performance. Instead, he unveiled another side of himself . . . the dirty side.

The unanimous decision in Tyson's favor was a foregone conclusion, but though he now held two-thirds of the Alphabet heavyweight title, the waltz with Smith will never rank among the great heavyweight fights in boxing history, or in 1987 for that matter.

TYSON'S GRADE: C.

Next up for Holyfield was Rickey Parkey, holder of the IBF cruiserweight title. Parkey, a gutsy upstart with a solid kick in his right hand, had won the IBF belt by stopping Lee Roy Murphy and successfully defended it against Chisanda Mutti. He was not expected to beat Holyfield, but most observers expected a lively scrap.

It was lively all right, but not for long. As expected, Parkey gave it everything he had, gamely mixing with Holyfield in an attempt to score an upset. Holyfield took a few hard shots, but overwhelmed his adversary with a vicious display of two-handed punching. Parkey went down twice in the third and referee Davey Pearl mercifully called a halt at 2:44. All things considered, Holyfield couldn't have been better. GRADE: A.

Stung by criticism following his lacklustre affair with Smith, Tyson was determined to silence his knockers in his second match of '87. The designated victim was former WBC titleholder Pinklon Thomas.

Thomas had fallen on hard times since his days as partial ruler of the heavyweight throne. He'd lost his share of the crown against Trevor Berbick and looked less than sensational in a series of comeback bouts. Nevertheless, "Pinky" was allowed back in the HBO heavyweight series, apparently on the strength of his early promise.

There was even some talk about how Pinklon's left jab and lateral movement were the tools needed to beat Tyson. Of course, it turned out to be just that . . . talk. A fired-up Tyson charged out of his corner and almost took Thomas' head off. But when the opening round was over, Thomas was still on his feet.

Tyson appeared to be coasting the next four rounds and there seemed to be a possibility of a repeat of the Tyson-Smith charade developing.

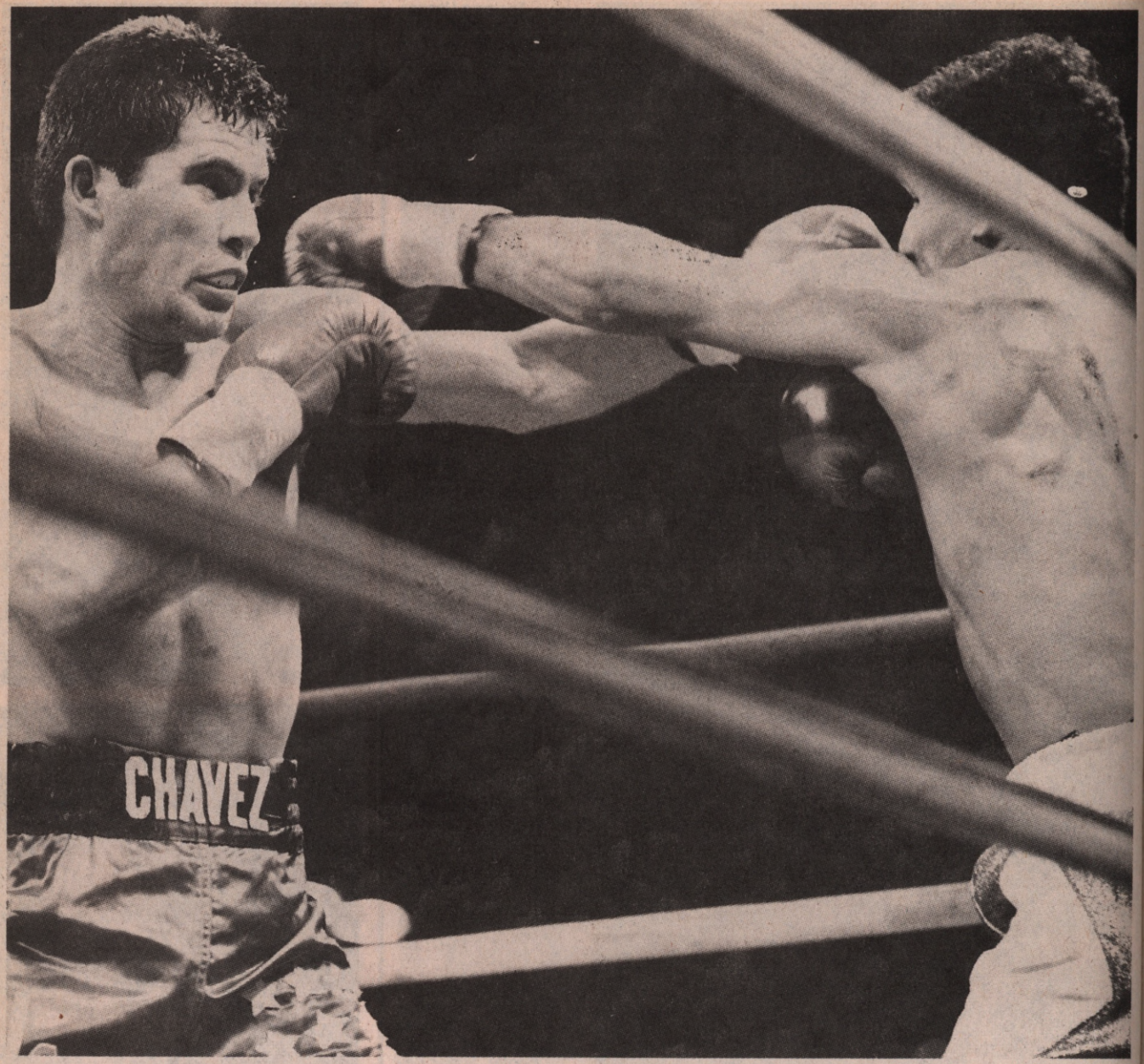
Then in Round Six, Tyson woke up and finished the job with a deadly display of punching power. He opened up with a prolonged salvo which culminated with a savage left hook. Thomas went down hard, but somehow managed to drag himself off the floor a split second before referee Carlos Padilla tolled "10." It made no difference, Pinklon was through and when his trainer, Angelo Dundee, entered the ring, Padilla called a halt.

Despite his four-round lunch break during rounds two, three, four and five, Tyson looked awesome. GRADE: A.

Holyfield's third bout of '87 was one which should never have taken place. On the undercard of the Holyfield-Parkey bill, Ossie Ocasio was awarded a 10-round decision over Dwight Qawi in a battle of former cruiserweight champs. It was a crummy fight, but the decision was even worse. As the winner had been promised a crack at Holyfield, Evander had little choice than to go through with a match nobody wanted, with the possible exception of Ocasio — and we're not too sure about him.

Boxing Ocasio is always an unenviable chore, even for a fighter of Holyfield's talents. Though "Jaws' " running and spoiling tactics make it practically impossible for anyone to look good against him, Holyfield approached the task with stoic profes-

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA



Julio Cesar Chavez (left) trades jabs with Edwin Rosario during their Latin epic in Las Vegas. Chavez's impressive TKO triumph made him boxing's biggest little man.

sionalism. It wasn't pretty, but at 1:24 of the 11th round Ocasio became the 12th knockout victim of Holyfield's pro career. HOLYFIELD'S GRADE: B.

Tyson's third adventure of '87 was the big one, supposedly for the entire heavyweight ball of wax. Tony Tucker had won the vacant IBF heavyweight belt, which the organization had arbitrarily yanked from Michael Spinks because he chose to fight Gerry Cooney for several million dollars instead of Tucker for a fraction of that purse.

The unbeaten Tucker had not been particularly impressive beating Buster Douglas for the IBF title, but proved a legitimate challenger against Tyson. He shook Tyson to the core with a potent uppercut in the first round and went on to give Mike the toughest fight of his career. Tyson recovered well from his early shock and showed doubters he was more than just a front-runner by fighting hard all the way to a unanimous, 12-round decision.

In adding the last Alphabet belt to his growing collection, Tyson proved he can take it as well as dish it out; always a vital consideration when factoring a boxer's overall quality. The Tucker victory wasn't spectacular, but it went a long way toward cementing Tyson's claim as an all-around fighter. He met someone capable of giving him a decent fight and emerged a clear winner. TYSON'S GRADE: B.

Holyfield's final fling for '87 was a matter of unfinished business. His title-winning match with Qawi in '86 was one of the finest action fights of the year. Though Qawi was temporarily sidetracked by the Ocasio loss, a rematch with Holyfield was still fairly hot property, especially in light of the fact Evander was running out of viable challengers.

Holyfield-Qawi II, held in Atlantic

City, in no way resembled the give-and-take war they staged the first time around in Atlanta. Holyfield has improved immeasurably, while age seems to have finally caught up with the man they once called the "Camden Buzzsaw."

After an attempt to go toe-to-toe with Holyfield in the third, Qawi was completely destroyed in the fourth. A left hook dumped Qawi along the ropes for the first knockdown, and when he arose, Evander drilled him to the canvas with a picture perfect right to the chin. Following the rout, Qawi headed for retirement and Holyfield headed for the top names in the heavyweight division with another "A" on his '87 report card.

Tyson also looked sensational in his last ring appearance of the year, hammering Olympic gold medalist Tyrell Biggs for a seventh-round knockout in defense of his combined WBC/WBA/IBF title. Once again, there were some foolish enough to think Biggs would make an interesting night's work for Tyson. Once again, they were wrong. It was his best performance since winning the WBC title with a second-round demolition of Berbick in '86. Tyson made mincemeat of Biggs, setting up his January match with Larry Holmes. GRADE: A.

The devastating showing gave Tyson his second "A" of the year, which pulled up his overall average, but not quite enough to catch Holyfield. Tyson earns two As, a B and a C, while Holyfield was valedictorian with three As and a B. Both fighters are a credit to the game, but unlike other years when *The Ring* has awarded joint honors, 1987 has only one Fighter of the Year — Evander Holyfield.

Obviously, Tyson is our first runner-up, but the second runner-up spot belongs to **Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns**, who also enjoyed a banner year in '87. Hearns entered the year as WBC super welterweight champ, but nobody really cared. His reputation tarnished by losses to Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Sugar Ray Leonard, Hearns' career seemed to be dying on the vine. But despite these major setbacks, Hearns never stopped believing in himself. In March, Hearns gave up his claim to the 154-pound throne and moved up to the light heavyweight ranks to challenge England's Dennis Andries for the WBC 175-pound title. Andries was hardly the most imposing light heavy champ, but the task of successfully putting on the additional poundage made it an intriguing contest for Hearns. He proved more than equal to the job and decked the game but outgunned Andries numerous times before the bout was stopped 1:26 into the 10th round.

Not satisfied with a slice of the light heavyweight pie to go along with the portions of the welterweight and junior middleweight titles he'd won previously, Hearns decided to drop back down to middleweight. The "Hit Man" had always coveted the 160-pound belt, and when Leonard's latest retirement threw the crown into chaos, Hearns tackled Juan Domingo Roldan for the WBC version of what's left of the middleweight title.

Forget the phony hype about four world titles. That subject has been addressed in previous issues of *The Ring*. What's important here is that Hearns kayoed Roldan in an entertaining brawl to reestablish himself as one of boxing's premiere drawing cards. He could do us all a big favor by staying put as a middleweight and reuniting the title. If he does, he just might pull down Fighter of the Year next year!

Foremost among the honorable mentions for '87 is **Julio Cesar Chavez,** who graduated to superstar status with his tremendous victory over Edwin Rosario for the WBA lightweight title. Though Chavez had held the WBC super featherweight belt since stopping Mario Martinez way back in September of 1984, it was a foregone conclusion that he would eventually abandon the 130-pound division and campaign at his true weight of 135 pounds. Before trouncing Rosario in the biggest Latin fight since Salvador Sanchez thrashed Wilfredo Gomez, Chavez was highly respected ... now he's revered.

While **Sugar Ray Leonard's** one-fight comeback was the boxing highlight of '87, *The Ring* does not feel a single bout is enough to warrant giving Leonard top honors. True fighters fight more than once a year. However, while Leonard failed to dominate, "His Sweetness" certainly gave the year some much-needed flavor.

Australia's **Jeff Fenech** bounced back with a fine year in '87 after sitting out much of '86 with a hand injury. Weight-making difficulties forced him to relinquish the IBF bantam title last year, but Fenech rebounded to win the WBC super bantam title in May with a sensational fourth-round knockout over Thailand's Samart Payakaroon. Fenech followed with two successful defenses; a fifth-round TKO over reluctant Greg Richardson and a fourth-round technical decision over comebacking Carlos Zarate. Jeff is worshiped Down Under and would make great TV fare in the USA if one of our networks had the foresight to bring him to the States.

Another quality fighter who finally made the fans sit up and take notice in '87 was **Mike McCallum**. The Jamaican bomber had been the class of the 154-pound division for some time, but had been forced to labor in relative anonymity. His rugged punch-out of former WBC welterweight boss Milton McCrory got people's attention, but when McCallum one-punched Donald Curry into oblivion, a star was born. Following the upset over Curry, Mike decided to move up to a *real* division and fight as a middleweight. His presence there can only enhance an already crowded and talent-rich field.

As always, the Orient had its share of superior ringmen. While Japan fell on hard times in '87, the sport continued to flourish in Korea. **Jung-Koo Chang** remains atop the WBC junior flyweight roost and is the biggest drawing card East of the International Dateline. Close behind is countryman **Myung-Woo Yuh,** who holds down the same slot for the IBF. Together, Chang and Yuh spearhead a Golden Age in Korean boxing that threatens to last into the 1990s.

Meanwhile, **Sot Chitalada,** the world flyweight champion, is only a short jet ride away in Thailand. Chitalada, whose only pro loss came at the hands of Chang, also had an excellent year in '87 and would make for a record-shattering gate with either of the Koreans.

Latin America also had its share of admirable boxers in '87. Two of the best were world featherweight champion **Antonio Esparragoza** of Venezuela and WBC bantamweight king **Miguel "Happy" Lora** of Colombia. Neither man gets the ink or TV exposure he deserves in this country, but that doesn't mean these two are not among the best in the business.

All-in-all, a year overflowing with remarkable boxers. Anybody who thinks they "don't make 'em like they used to" didn't follow boxing too closely in 1987. □

FIGHT OF THE YEAR

By Phill Marder

Leonard Proves Marvelous Against Hagler

THE YEAR 1987 PRODUCED A SLEW OF great fights. But when it came down to the nitty gritty of selecting one bout as The Fight of the Year, there was no question, no hesitation, no debate.

When boxing fans look back on the year 1987, they will remember Sugar Ray Leonard vs. Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

This fight had everything from beginning to end.

First, there was anticipation. As a welterweight, Sugar Ray Leonard had established himself as one of boxing's premier performers, in and out of the ring. Only one peer challenged Ray's status as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, and that was Hagler, who was busy cementing his claim as one of the middleweight division's legendary greats.

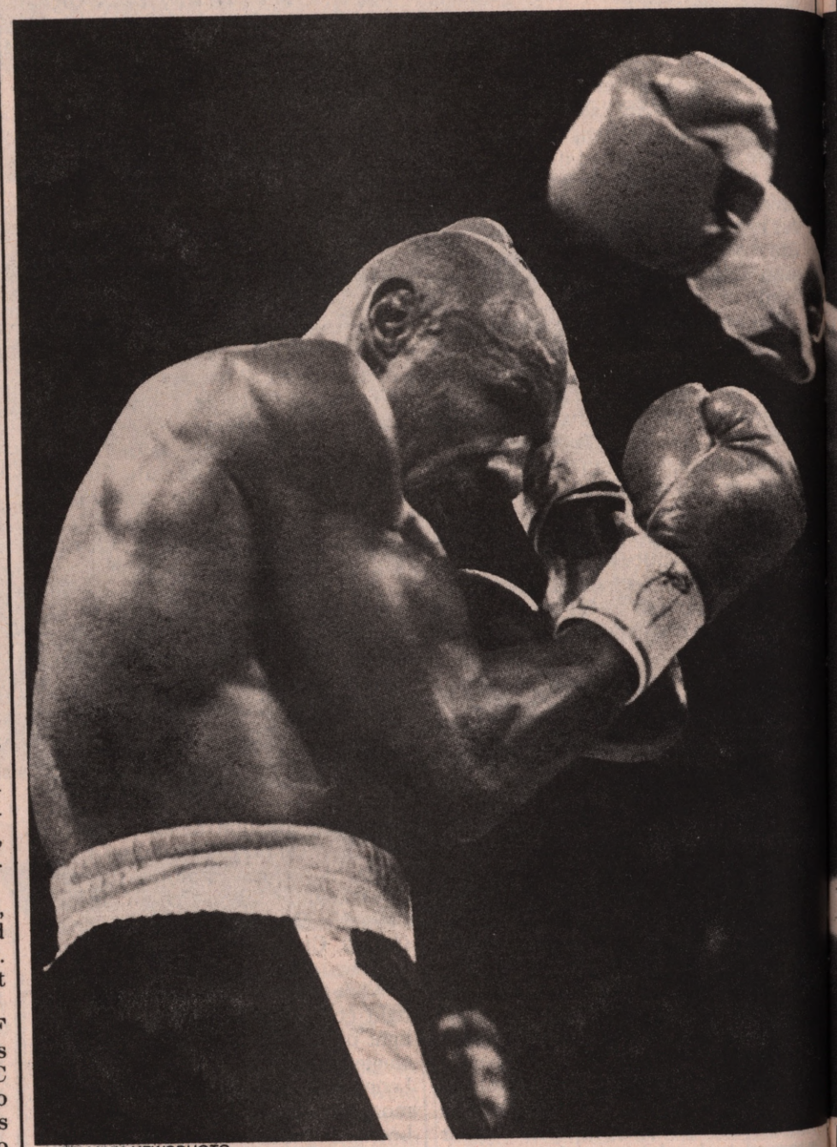
Could Sugar Ray move up in weight and defeat Hagler? The question was on the lips of boxing fans throughout the world. Yet, when Leonard's eye troubles became public, it seemed a question destined never to be answered. Leonard would box no more. Meanwhile, Hagler continued cleaning up his weight class and fans were left wondering and debating what might have been.

Leonard's abbreviated comeback appearance against Kevin Howard did little to boost hopes. Leonard looked bad, knew he looked bad, and retired again. No fight with Hagler on the horizon.

By the time the fight was announced, Leonard had, in reality, been retired five years. Five years of anticipation. Finally, the wait was over. The fight would happen. Or would it?

Next came the controversy. The IBF wouldn't rate Leonard because of his previous eye problems. The WBC would sanction the fight, but for no more than 12 rounds. The debates started. Should Leonard be allowed to fight anyone, let alone Hagler? And if the fight was to go on, would 12 rounds do it justice?

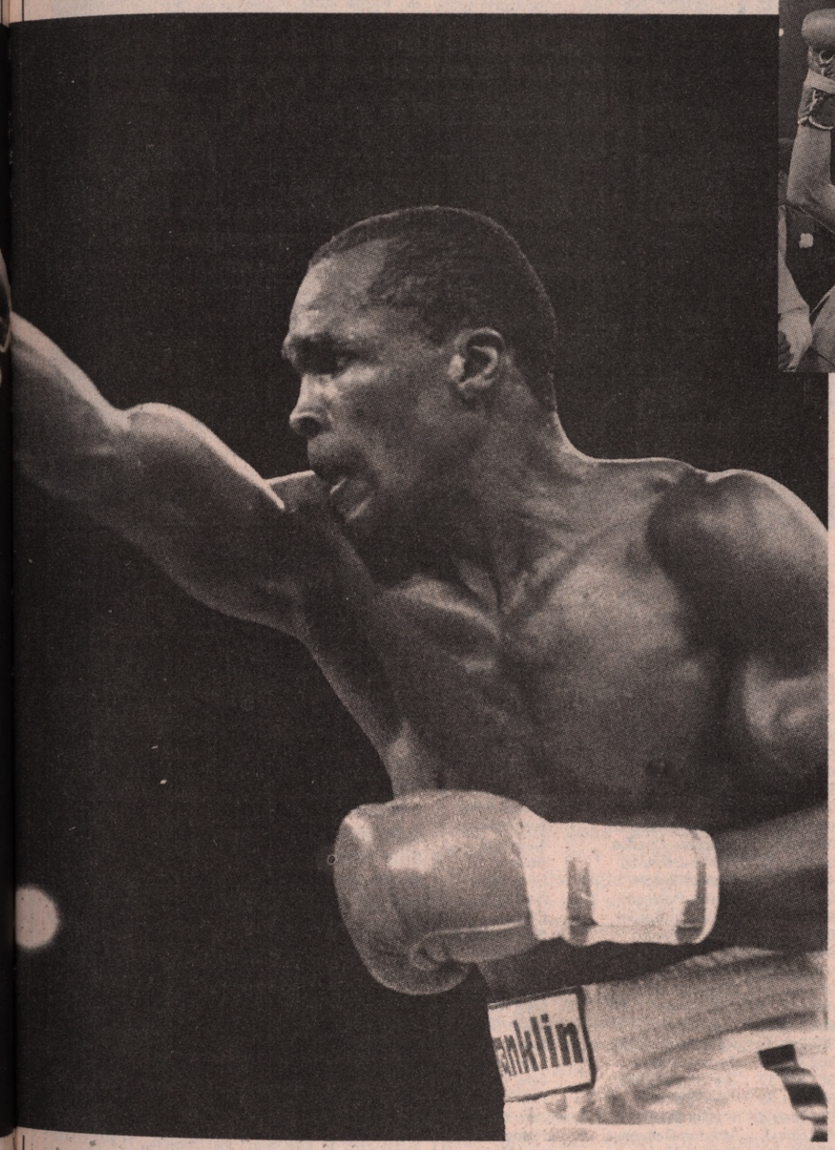
It didn't matter to the fans, who responded in the midst of the turmoil, purchasing tickets at an unprecedented rate. The excitement of a great fight was at hand. Damn the rounds, damn the sanctions, damn the torpedoes, the fans went full-speed ahead. That excitement did not diminish as the fight approached. By the time the two entered the Caesars Palace ring April 6, interest was at a pitch reserved for only the greatest of sports events.



BETTMANN NEWSPHOTO

And that excitement remained throughout the 12 rounds as Leonard convinced the public, the media and Hagler that he was not only capable of putting up a good show, but capable of pulling off one of the greatest upsets in the history of sports. As he neared his goal, the excitement increased.

Meanwhile, there was action, an obvious consideration for Fight of the Year. Forget the rest, if a fight doesn't produce action, it isn't the Fight of the Year. But, on top of everything else, Leonard and Hagler produced action.



Sugar Ray Leonard (right) has Marvelous Marvin Hagler under fire and covering up during their 12-rounder for Hagler's undisputed middleweight title. The bout was the richest fight in boxing history and THE RING'S Fight of the Year for 1987.

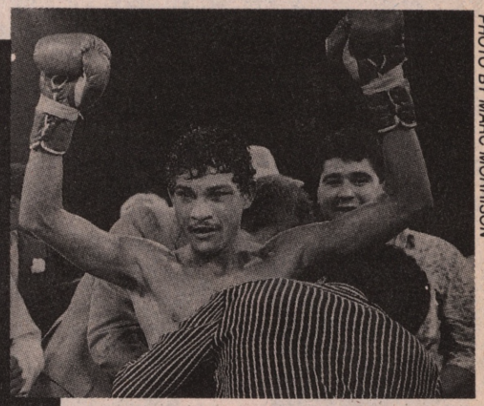


PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

Another of 1987's great action fights was Antonio Esparragoza's 12th-round kayo over Steve Cruz for the world featherweight title. Ironically, loser Cruz was the winner (over Barry McGuigan) of last year's Fight of the Year. Esparragoza is pictured here receiving his championship belt.

Maybe not the action produced by some other fights during the year, but plenty of action, nonetheless. Leonard boxed, Hagler chased. Hagler fired, Leonard countered. Hagler flurried, Leonard flurried right back.

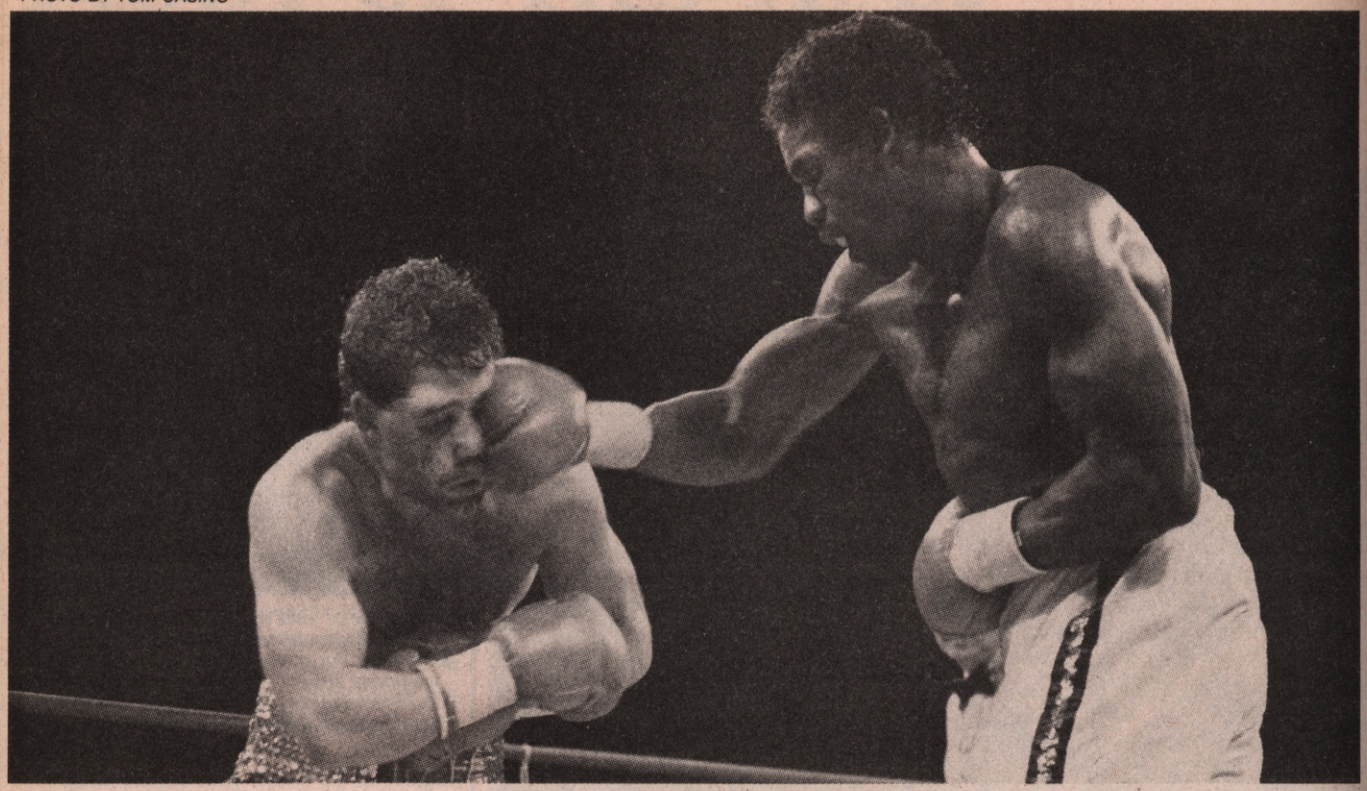
When the final bell sounded, there was no relief, no letdown. The excitement and anticipation remained. Who won? No one was sure, not Leonard, not Hagler, not the media, not the fans.

With the announcement of "The winner, and *new* middleweight champion" came more controversy. Many thought Hagler had won. More disagreed with the lopsided 118-110 score Jo Jo Guerra carded in favor of Leonard. There were complaints, accusations, criticisms. Though over, The Fight of the Year would not rest in peace.

Instead, it left us with another ingredient for great fights — questions. Did Leonard do enough to win? More importantly, did Hagler do little enough to lose? Was it a setup? Would there be a rematch?

It happened a year ago and the debates continue. As time passes, the

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO



"Prince" Charles Williams nails Bobby Czyz flush in the face en route to a TKO victory and the IBF light heavyweight belt. The thrilling see-saw battle was selected as the second best fight of '87.

controversies will remain. There were many great fights and many great fighters in 1987, but the year will forever belong to one night, one fight . . . Sugar Ray Leonard vs. Marvelous Marvin Hagler . . . *The Ring*'s Fight of the Year.

In most other years, "Prince" Charles Williams' stunning upset of Bobby Czyz for the IBF light heavyweight title would have been a shoo-in for top honors as Fight of the Year. But in 1987, Williams and Czyz will have to settle for runner-up.

Some runner-up!

Czyz appeared to be the class of the 175-pound league. Williams? The challenger had lost four of 27 previous bouts and had done nothing to distinguish himself as a contender. No one thought he had a chance. In fact, no one gave it much thought at all. Czyz was passing the time until a big-money fight — perhaps with Tommy Hearns — came along.

As the action progressed, all seemed according to plan, though Williams did find it surprisingly easy to plant his left jab on Czyz's kisser. Czyz was biding his time, waiting for the big shot that would put Williams in his place. It came at the close of Round Two when Czyz floored Williams with a crushing right. Williams got to his feet, but was ready to go. Unfortunately for Czyz, the bell rang.

Not to worry. Czyz resumed his assault in Round Three, smashing Williams into the ropes, which kept the challenger on his feet. Referee Carlos Padilla gave Williams an eight-count, much to the chagrin of Czyz, who felt he was a punch or two away from going home early with his title intact.

At the time, Padilla's move seemed unimportant. Czyz was rolling. But by the round's finish, an amazing turnabout had occurred. Williams was fighting back harder than ever . . . and scoring!

As the rounds progressed, Williams grew stronger. His jab painted the face of Czyz, practically closing the titleholder's right eye. Czyz was still firing away, but it was no longer a onesided affair. Williams was plugging back, giving as much as he took.

Finally, Williams drove his point home in Round Nine. He was there for the duration, and he wobbled Czyz with

THE RING'S "FIGHT OF THE YEAR" . . . SINCE 1945

1945 June 29	Graziano-Cochrane	New York
1946 Sept. 27	Zale-Graziano	New York
1947 July 16	Graziano-Zale	Chicago
1948 Sept. 21	Cerdan-Zale	Jersey City
1949 Feb. 11	Pep-Sadler	New York
1950 Sept. 13	LaMotta-Dauthuille	Detroit
1951 July 18	Walcott-Charles	Pittsburgh
1952 Sept. 23	Marciano-Walcott	Philadelphia
1953 Sept. 24	Marciano-LaStraza	New York
1954 Sept. 17	Marciano-Charles	New York
1955 Nov. 30	Basilio-DeMarco	Boston
1956 Sept. 12	Basilio-Saxton	Syracuse
1957 Sept. 23	Basilio-Robinson	New York
1958 May 25	Robinson-Basilio	Chicago
1959 Aug. 28	Fullmer-Basilio	San Francisco
1960 June 20	Patterson-Johansson	New York
1961 Apr. 18	Brown-Charney	London
1962 Jan. 30	Giardello-Hank	Philadelphia
1963 Mar. 13	Clay-Jones	New York
1964 Feb. 25	Clay-Liston	Miami Beach
1965 Feb. 1	Patterson-Chuvalo	New York
1966 Aug. 15	Torres-Cotton	Las Vegas
1967 Apr. 17	Benvenuti-Griffith	New York
1968 Oct. 25	Tiger-DePaul	New York
1969 June 23	Frazier-Quarry	New York
1970 Nov. 7	Monzon-Benvenuti	Rome
1971 Mar. 8	Frazier-Ali	New York
1972 Sept. 26	Foster-Finnegan	London
1973 Jan. 22	Foreman-Frazier	Kingston
1974 Oct. 30	Ali-Foreman	Kinshasa
1975 Oct. 1	Ali-Frazier	Manila
1976 Jan. 24	Foreman-Lyle	Las Vegas
1977 Mar. 17	Young-Foreman	San Juan
1978 Feb. 15	Spinks-Ali	Las Vegas
1979 June 17	Lopez-Ayala	San Antonio
1980 July 13	Saad Muhammad-Lopez	McAfee, N.J.
1981 Sept. 16	Leonard-Hearns	Las Vegas
1982 Dec. 11	Chacon-Limon	Sacramento
1983 May 15	Chacon-Boza-Edwards	Las Vegas
1984 Nov. 3	Ramirez-Rosario	San Juan
1985 Apr. 15	Hagler-Hearns	Las Vegas
1986 June 23	Cruz-McGuigan	Las Vegas

PHOTO BY DWIGHT H. BROWN

a right uppercut as the session drew to a close.

Between rounds, a discouraged and beaten Czyz decided to live and fight another day. He would not leave his stool. "Prince" Charles Williams was the new IBF light heavy king.

It was an amazing comeback, an amazing upset and an amazing fight . . . the second best in 1987.

THE BEST OF THE REST

While the choice for 1987's Fight of the Year was a relatively simple one, the choice for runner-up was anything but easy. Many bouts rivaled the Williams-Czyz contest and deserve mention.

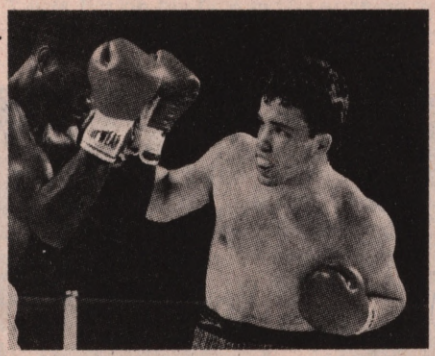
Texan **Steve Cruz** won the WBA featherweight title by decisioning Barry McGuigan in *The Ring*'s Fight of the Year for 1986. Cruz came close to being a repeat award winner when he lost his title to **Antonio Esparragoza**. The two went at it hammer-and-tong for the first 11 rounds of the scheduled 15-rounder, with Esparragoza holding a slim lead. But Cruz was showing the effects of Esparragoza's punches. His face was bruised, both eyes were swollen. Sensing his crown slipping away, Cruz went for broke in the 12th only to be floored by a left hook. He got up, but Esparragoza put him down again and there was a new WBA feather boss.

IBF bantamweight king **Kelvin Seabrooks** put in two bids for best fight honors. First came his win over **Louis Curtis**, which prompted *Ring* correspondent J.R. Jowett to suggest, "Maybe there should be an award for best obscure fight." Seabrooks emerged with a unanimous decision and the USBA bantamweight title, but not until he had survived 12 rounds of pure mayhem.

However, Kelvin went one better when he defended his IBF crown in France against Thierry Jacob. Seabrooks floored Jacob in the first 15 seconds only to find himself on the deck twice before the opening round concluded. Seabrooks was down again in the eighth, but kept fighting back until Jacob retired in his corner prior to Round 10 with a cut eye.

Mike McCallum also participated in two bouts that received strong consideration. First, he blistered **Milton McCrory** in a bruising battle, then he spotted **Donald Curry** four rounds before flattening him with a sweet left hook in the fifth.

For sustained action over 15 rounds, Matthew Hilton's decision over Buster Drayton for the IBF junior middleweight title was hard to beat in '87.



Harold "The Shadow" Knight (right) and Kenny Baysmore mix it up during their brutal clash for the USBA junior lightweight title in Atlantic City. Both men landed a ton of leather before Knight prevailed via a seventh-round knockout.

And what about those 15 rounds of everything goes provided by **Vinny Pazienza** and **Greg Haugen** for Haugen's IBF lightweight laurels? If the rematch is half as good, it'll be a contender for this year's honors.

The heavy hitters had their moments, too. Remember the war between **Tyrell Biggs** and **David Bey** in which Biggs was pounded and bleeding badly before he rallied for a stoppage victory? And how about **Mike Weaver**'s upset of previously unbeaten **James Pritchard** in which the two used each other for a heavy bag until Pritchard could go no further?

And speaking of heavy hitters, how about Canada's **Matthew Hilton**, who won the IBF junior middleweight belt by a 15-round decision over **Buster Drayton**? Though down in the opening round, Drayton was still giving Hilton all he could ask for at the close of 15. When the bout concluded, reports issued said Drayton suffered a broken nose, two broken ribs and a broken hand, while Hilton's hands were so swollen they couldn't be examined! Talk about two guys dishing out punishment!

Could one mention 1987 without mentioning **Harold Brazier**, who seemed to fight every week? With his busy schedule, Brazier was bound to find himself in a candidate for "Fight of the Year," and such a candidate was his decision victory over previously unbeaten **John Meekins**.

And there were lots more. For pure action, one could not disregard the brawl which saw **Harold Knight** stop **Kenny Baysmore** in seven rounds of a USBA junior lightweight title match. Or the 15-round WBA flyweight title bout in which defending champ **Fidel Bassa**, down, cut and badly hurt, rallied back to keep his title with a 13-round finish of England's previously unbeaten **Dave McAuley**.

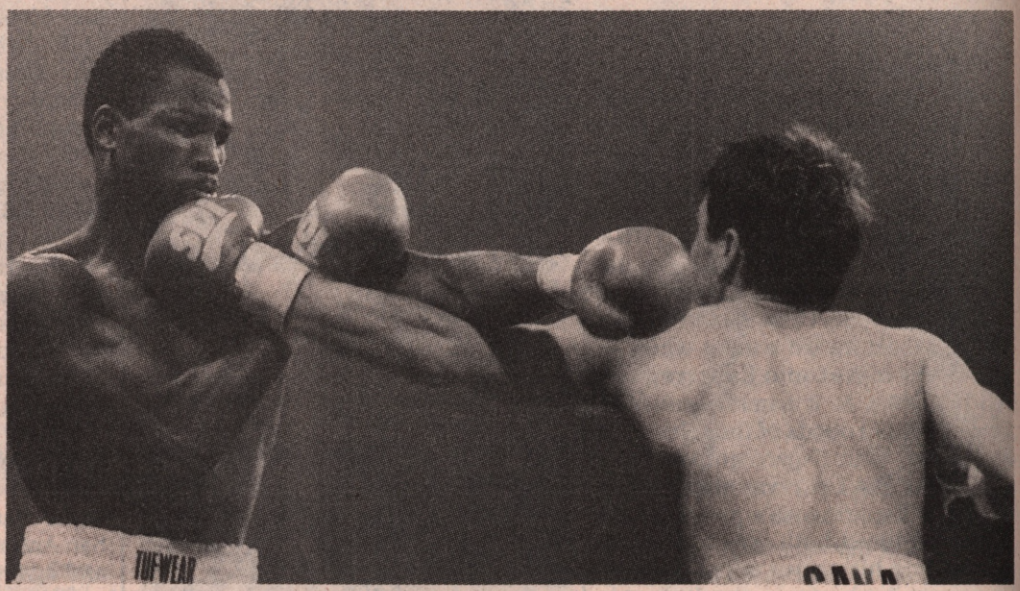
More? Texans showered the ring with coins after **Daniel Zaragoza** decisioned **Aaron Lopez** in an NABF super bantamweight title contest in San Antonio . . . Down twice in the first and again in the second, **Bobby Chacon** came back to stop **Martin Guevera** in the third . . . and speaking of comebacks, there was **Chang-Ho Choi** losing by a mile against IBF flyweight champ **Dodie Penalosa** until he roared back to flatten Penalosa in the 11th round . . . More comebacks? **Bernardo Pinango** came off the deck and was penalized three points for low blows, but still managed to keep his WBA bantam title with a decision over **Frankie Duarte**, who was climaxing a three-year comeback from drug and alcohol abuse . . . Controversy? A disputed knockdown proved the difference in **Jaime Garza**'s blistering 10-round, split decision win over **Joe Ruelas**.

No controversy, no comeback, just good old action highlighted **Lupe Suarez'** stoppage of **John John Molina** in a battle between promising featherweights, and the same held true when **Myung-Woo Yuh** turned back the stiff challenge of **Rodolfo Blanco** to keep his WBA junior flyweight title and his unbeaten mark with an eight-round KO.

Yes, 1987 produced many great fights. Those lucky enough to have witnessed any of the above will not soon forget them. □

ROUND OF THE YEAR

Three Knockdowns Highlight Opening Round of Seabrooks-Jacob War



This early exchange of jabs between IBF bantam boss Kelvin Seabrooks (left) and French challenger Thierry Jacob was just a warm-up for the fireworks to come. Before the opening session was over, there were three knockdowns. Jacob visited the deck once, while Seabrooks was floored twice. This incredible action earned Round of the Year honors.

THREE MINUTES OF PURE MAYHEM ... Kelvin Seabrooks and Thierry Jacob, Round One ... *The Ring's* Round of the Year.

Kelvin Seabrooks packed his bags and left Charlotte, North Carolina for France. Awaiting was Thierry Jacob, a young, unbeaten Frenchman intent on keeping Seabrooks' IBF bantamweight title on the European continent.

Seabrooks expected a tough challenge, but no one could have predicted what happened in the bout's very first three minutes.

Bing, the bell. Bong, Jacob is down. Another European meets his match. But wait, Jacob is up. Seabrooks is down. Seabrooks is up. Seabrooks is down again.

That's the way it went in The Round of the Year. Seabrooks scored the first knockdown with a right hand. It took just 12 seconds! But Jacob stormed back in front of his hometown fans, putting the titleholder down first with a left hook, then again with a right.

The two continued to slug it out, Jacob putting Seabrooks down again in the eighth before finally retiring on his stool with a cut eye at the end of the ninth. But it was impossible to match the fury and drama of the opening three minutes, which stood out as the year's outstanding round.

RUNNER-UP

One word aptly describes this year's runner-up ... bizarre.

The site was Norfolk, Virginia where hometown favorite Pernell Whitaker was busy giving Roger Mayweather an eight-round lesson in the fundamentals of boxing.

Then, Mayweather gave Whitaker a lesson in the fundamentals of good manners.

Mayweather's trunks were sliding precariously low. To keep the nationally televised fight from becoming X-rated, action was called to allow Mayweather to invite his trunks up to meet his waist. But while Roger was attempting to do just that — no mean feat while wearing a pair of boxing gloves — Whitaker decided he wanted to find out why Mayweather was nicknamed "Black Mamba." Pernell tried to pull down Mayweather's trunks, much to the amusement of his hometown fans.

Funny, but Roger didn't see the humor. With his trunks taped in place, Mayweather made it clear he didn't appreciate Whitaker's jest, dropping Pernell to all fours with a right hand.

The unbeaten Whitaker recovered quickly, made it through the round and continued on his way to a 12-round decision win and the NABF lightweight title.

But, he was almost shorts-circuited, if you'll pardon the expression.

Right behind Whitaker and Mayweather is our second runner-up, the third round of "Prince" Charles Williams' upset of Bobby Czyz for the IBF light heavyweight title.

Williams, a 2-1 underdog, had been saved by the bell ending Round Two after being floored by a Czyz right. Czyz came out to finish him in the third, blasting his challenger into the ropes. Referee Carlos Padilla called it another knockdown, and the brief pause for the eight-count seemed to rejuvenate Williams. By round's end, Williams was hammering Czyz, and the titleholder welcomed the bell.

HONORABLE MENTION

As could be expected, there were numerous other candidates for The Ring's Round of the Year. For instance, the fourth round of Tommy Hearns' WBC middleweight title victory over Juan Roldan.

Down three times in the first two rounds, the Argentinian fought back and gave Hearns all sorts of trouble in the third. Roldan started the fourth with a left hook that staggered Hearns, then pinned him in a corner where he fired bomb after bomb. Finally, Hearns escaped. But rather than run, Hearns stood his ground and nailed the oncoming Roldan with a right that put him down and out ... finally.

Then there was the third round of the rematch between Evander Holyfield and Dwight Muhammad Qawi. Holyfield controlled the opening two frames, but the aging Qawi gave it one last burst in the third. And what a burst. But Holyfield was equal to the challenge, returning slug for slug. Three minutes weren't enough. When the bell sounded, the two kept hammering away. It was the last hurrah for Qawi, who was knocked out in the next frame.

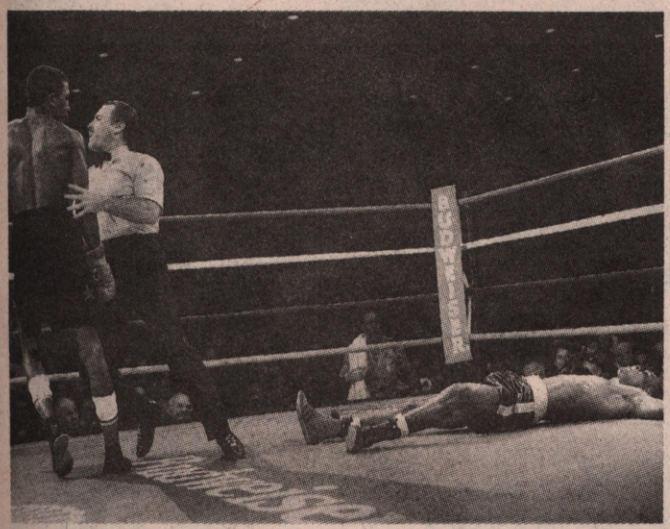
Similar to the Seabrooks-Jacob opening round was the first session of the December battle between Chong-Pal Park and Jesus Gallardo for the WBA super middleweight title. Park was flat on his face in the opening minute, but rallied to floor Gallardo twice before the round ended, then stopped him in the next frame.

Harold Knight emerged as an all-action fighter in 1987, and the bout that brought him to the fore was his wild USBA junior lightweight title match with champ Kenny Baysmore. Any of the first six rounds could have made this list, but they just set the stage for the seventh. Baysmore came off the deck to stun Knight at the end of the sixth, and the champion came out strong for the seventh. But Knight kept him from reversing the tide permanently, stretching Baysmore with an onslaught of left hooks. Great finishing round to a great fight.

Young Dave McAuley wasn't given much of a chance to lift Fidel Bassa's WBA flyweight title even though the fight was in Belfast, Ireland and the local favorite was unbeaten. But McAuley built a steady lead, dropping Bassa in the third and again in the sixth, though the latter was ruled no-knockdown. No such ruling came in the ninth when McAuley decked Bassa twice more. "Suddenly, the champion's legs were like rubber, his eyes the size of saucers ..." reported our ringside correspondents. One more knockdown in the round and McAuley would own the title. It wasn't to be. Somehow Bassa lasted to the bell, regrouped and finally stopped the weary youngster in the 13th. But he'll never forget that ninth.

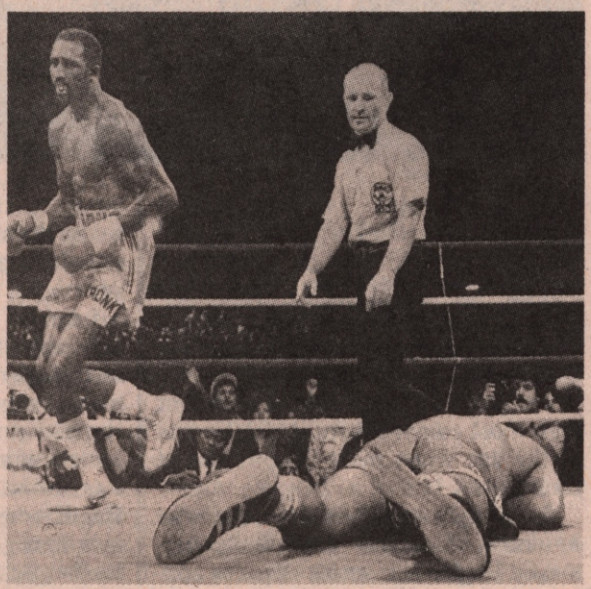
The ninth was also the most memorable in the "Fight of the Year." Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler were slugging it out when three straight rights put Leonard's bid for immortality in danger. Somehow, the weary Leonard found the energy to fight back. And though Hagler had the best of the round, Leonard may have won the fight then and there.

Mike Weaver versus James Pritchard? Pick any of the six rounds for a qualifier. These two blasted away until Pritchard finally was subdued in the sixth ... Two other heavyweights, David Bey and Tyrell Biggs, also provided six rounds of dynamite. But in this case, it was one-sided in favor of Bey. But the bleeding and battered Biggs rallied to knock out Bey in the sixth, one of the year's best rounds ... And let's not forget world heavyweight champion Michael Spinks, who KO'd Gerry Cooney in the fifth. Cooney had shown signs of coming to life in the previous two rounds, but Spinks' jab jarred his head with regularity as the fifth began. Then the champion put "The Spinks Jinx" into play, staggering Cooney with several rights until the giant toppled over. Cooney went down again from another blitz, but he wasn't finished. As Spinks pinned him to the ropes, Cooney unleashed his last gasp, a left hook that caught Spinks flush on the jaw. The champion backed to ring center to take stock of the situation, felt secure in his control and moved in for the kill. □



The dramatic end of the Harold Knight-Kenny Baysmore war came in the seventh round when Knight's left hook turned Baysmore into a flattened pancake.

In deep trouble early in the fourth round of his bout with Juan Domingo Roldan for the vacant WBC middleweight title, Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns punched back with vigor to kayo Roldan before the round was over.



BETTMANN NEWSPHOTO

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

The Return of Sugar Ray ... How Sweet It Was

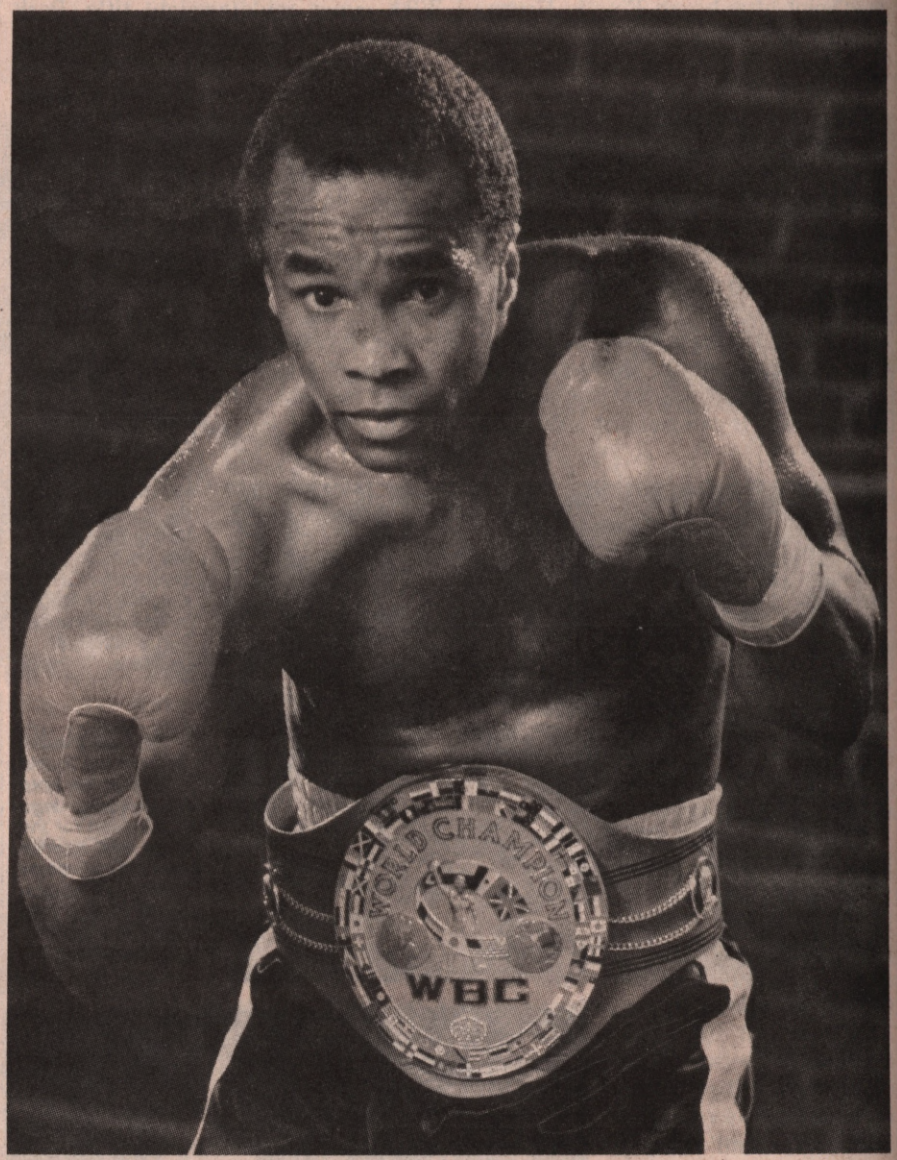
REMEMBER THE UPROAR WHEN RAY Leonard announced he was coming back to challenge Marvelous Marvin Hagler? Most of the press was negative and loaded with righteous indignation ... "It can't be done" ... "Leonard's jeopardizing his health and eyesight" ... "Leonard risks tarnishing magnificent career" ... "Hagler will kill him."

The Ring said "baloney" and championed the match from the start. And the boxing fans around the world agreed, supporting the bout with hard-earned cash — to the tune of over $60 million!

While it is true most boxing comebacks are doomed to failure, there have always been exceptions to the rule. Special fighters can do special things. And Leonard has always been very special.

The key to Leonard's successful comeback against Hagler was twofold: First, there was Ray's fantastic boxing talent, unequaled since the salad days of Muhammad Ali. Second was the brilliant con job he pulled on Hagler. It was the latter as much, if not more than the former, that enabled Leonard to weave the magic which led to Hagler's downfall via a split 12-round decision, April 6, 1987, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Leonard's fight plan began at the bargaining table when both camps sat down to negotiate the contract for the match. Leonard shrewdly allowed Hagler a slightly larger slice of the purse, but insisted the bout be scheduled for 12 rounds instead of the traditional 15. He knew the shorter distance would be to his advantage and an over-confident (or perhaps greedy) Hagler agreed.



Another thing which helped Leonard's comeback was the fact he'd never allowed himself to get fat and sloppy during his retirement. He'd stayed in great shape, running, playing tennis and sparring with protege Sean O'Sullivan.

Leonard's age was also inconsistent with most comebackers. At 30, he was at the age when most fighters are at their peaks.

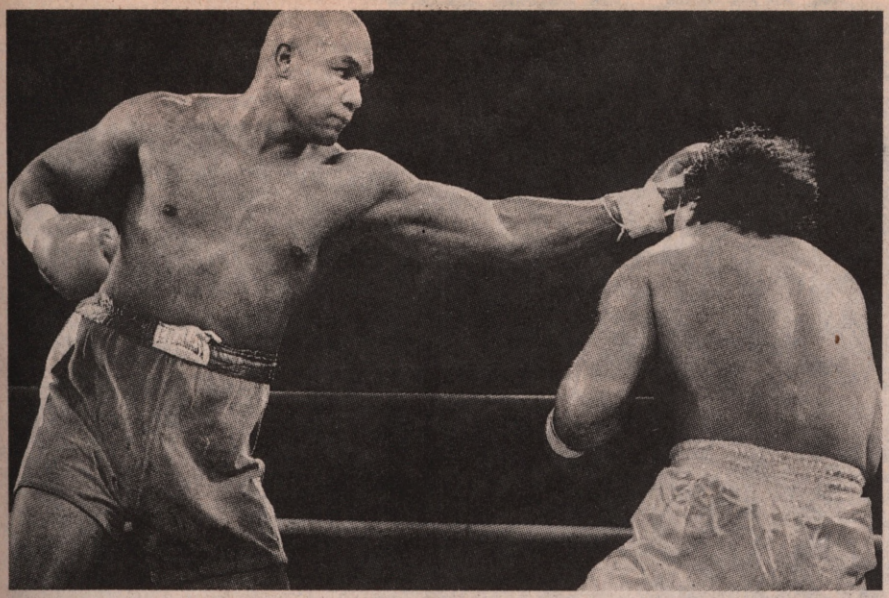
As the fight approached and the hype mounted, Leonard continually upstaged Hagler at a series of press conferences. He got under Marvin's skin to such an extent, the undisputed middleweight champion cut short their promotion tour around the country.

Leonard even went so far as to publicly announce his fight plan. He would beat Hagler with handspeed and movement, "winning one round at a time." He had no intention of going for a knockout and made no bones about it. Ray also said he planned to "mess with Hagler's head," hopefully goating him into losing his temper and fighting a foolish fight.

One of the most remarkable comebacks of '87 (or any other year) was the one staged by Sugar Ray Leonard against Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Leonard's 12-round decision over Hagler made him a shoo-in for Comeback of the Year honors.

The most bizarre comeback of '87 belonged to former heavyweight champion George Foreman, who returned to combat after 10 years on the sidelines. Foreman racked up five straight knockouts in '87, including this one over Rocky Sekorski.

PHOTO BY WALLACE CHAPMAN



Every ploy worked like a charm and when the opening bell sounded, Leonard dazzled Hagler with moves not seen in the ring since Ray was forced into retirement because of eye injuries. As the bout progressed and Leonard began to slow down, he displayed great heart, outpunching Hagler in several crucial exchanges.

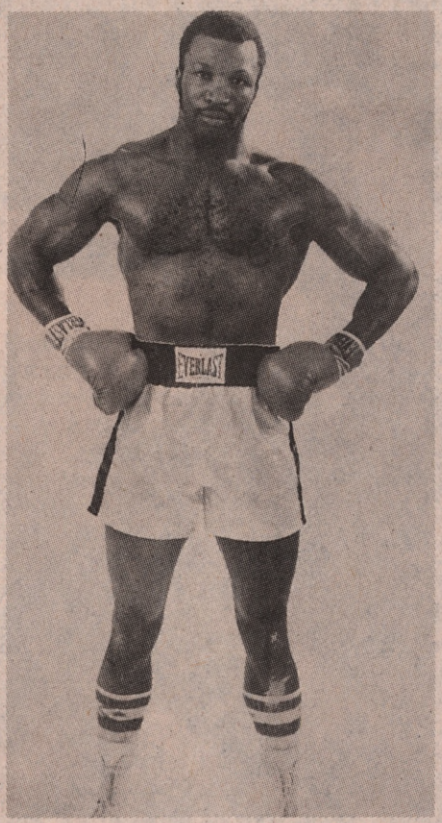
While fans still debate the decision in Leonard's favor, one thing is for sure. Boxing had never seen a comeback quite like it. It was without a doubt 1987's Comeback of the Year, and possibly the greatest comeback in fistic history.

RUNNER-UP

To come back, you have to have been away. Few prominent fighters looked more washed up than former WBA heavyweight champ **Mike Weaver** at the end of 1986. Though he'd blasted Carl "The Truth" Williams in February of '86, "Hercules" had been iced himself by "Bonecrusher" Smith and badly outpointed by Razor Ruddock, ending the year on a dismal note.

But you can't keep a good man down, especially if he punches like Weaver.

After taking some time off in the early part of '87, Weaver was lured back into the ring to test unbeaten slugger James Pritchard. The result was one of the most savage — and entertaining — rumbles of the year. Pritchard connected with everything he had, but Weaver refused to fold. However, when Weaver began to rally back with his own bombs, it was a different story. Pritchard was hammered, dropped and



Runner-up for Comeback of the Year goes to former heavyweight kingpin Mike Weaver, who proved he's still one of the most dangerous men around by knocking off prospects James Pritchard and Johnny du Plooy in '87.

finally stopped in Round Six. Weaver was back in business.

Next, Weaver traveled to South Africa to tackle that troubled land's latest heavyweight hope, Johnny du Plooy. Once more, Weaver upset the applecart, handing du Plooy a TKO defeat. Still extremely dangerous at age 35, Weaver's revitalized career can only spell trouble for any heavyweight foolish enough to stand and swap leather with him.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Another blast from the past which enlivened '87 came from former heavyweight champion **George Foreman,** who emerged from retirement to launch one of the strangest comebacks in modern boxing history. After 10 years on the sidelines, big George decided there were still plenty of fights — and paydays — to be wrung from his 38-year-old body. Beginning with a fourth-round TKO over Steve Zouski in March, Foreman has tallied five straight victories on the comeback trail, all inside the distance. Though he hasn't beaten anyone of note yet, don't be too shocked if Foreman is matched with Mike Tyson sometime in '88.

A number of former titleholders returned to the championship ranks in '87 after lengthy spells out in the cold. Among them were: **Jose Luis Ramirez,** who won the vacant WBC lightweight belt with a 12-round decision over Terrence Alli; **Rocky Lockridge,** who stopped Barry Michael for the IBF junior lightweight crown; and **Roger Mayweather,** who iced Rene Arredondo to capture the WBC junior welter title.

Another boxer who never really went away is **Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns**. Nevertheless, his victory over Juan Domingo Roldan for the WBC middleweight title was still a comeback in terms of box-office appeal. Hearns' star had faded following his kayo losses to Leonard and Hagler, but the Roldan victory helped return much of the lost lustre.

It looked as if Puerto Rican bantamweight **Wilfredo Vasquez** would never reach his potential following heartbreaking losses to Miguel "Happy" Lora (for the WBC bantam belt) and Antonio Avelar in '86. But Vasquez's luck turned in '87 when he won the WBA version of the bantamweight title with a 10th-round TKO over Korean Chan-Yung Park.

Comebacks have always been one of the most intriguing aspects of boxing, and those in 1987 were no exception. □

UPSET OF THE YEAR
Leonard Stuns the World

FOR BOXING, 1987 WAS A PEPTO BISmol year. There were upsets galore.

But despite the numerous shockers that assaulted our senses, not to mention our predictions, the choice for Upset of the Year was no choice at all. Sugar Ray Leonard's comeback victory over Marvelous Marvin Hagler is the gloves-down winner, being not only the biggest upset of the year in boxing, but one of the biggest upsets in the history of sports.

Leonard was coming off a five-year retirement, a pause interrupted only by a shoddy performance against Kevin Howard, a capable, but average fighter from Philadelphia. Leonard was also coming off a scary history of eye problems.

Under normal conditions, a successful Leonard comeback would have been considered an upset. But Leonard wasn't tackling normal conditions. First, he was gaining weight and moving into a division he had never tested, the middleweights, seemingly a big deal to those who have been brainwashed into believing weight makes a difference. Second, he was challenging a man considered one of the greatest middleweights of all time, a man considered the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, a man who hadn't lost a fight in 11 years.

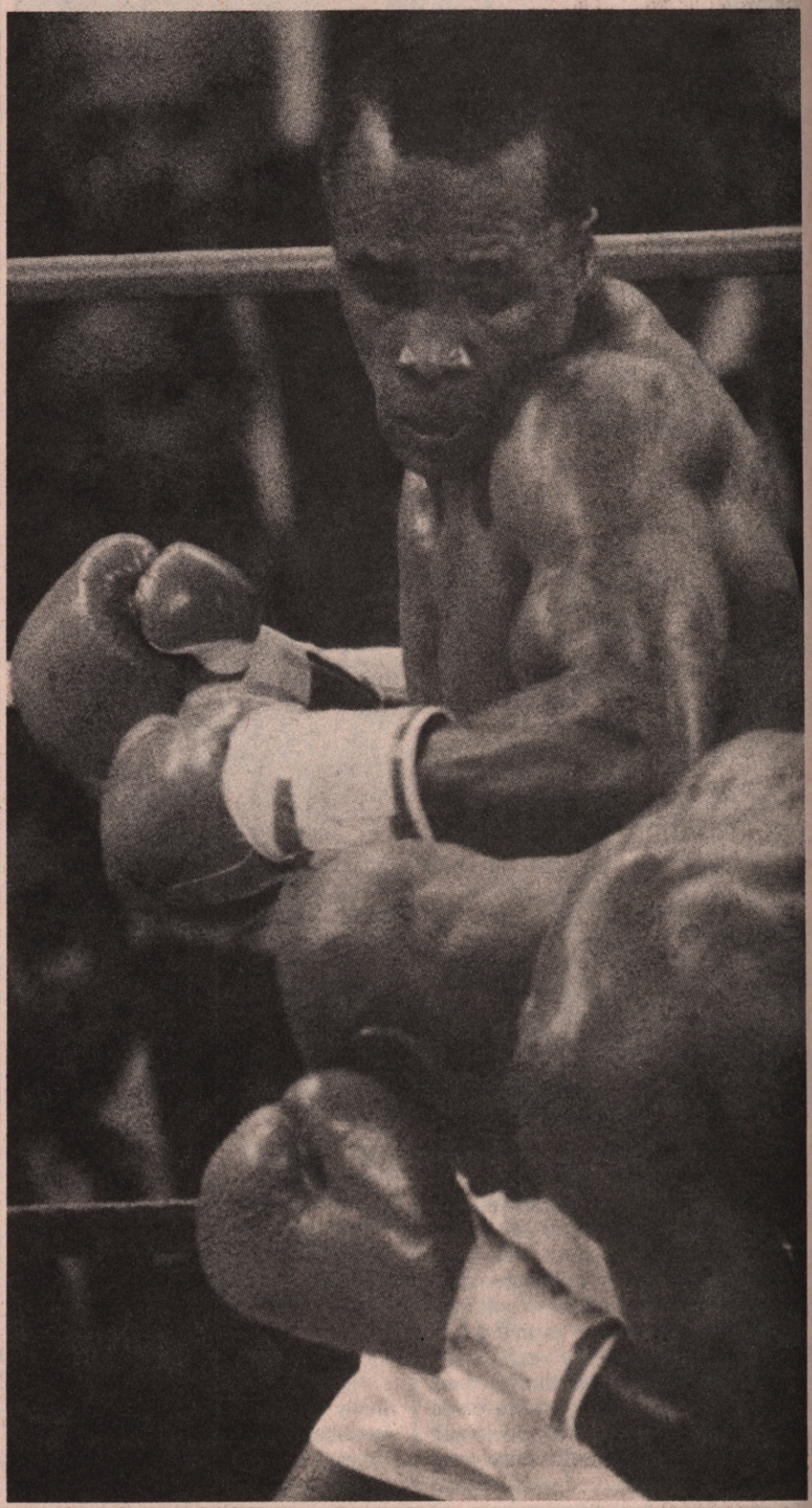
Most experts felt Leonard shouldn't fight at all. Few gave him a chance to do well against Hagler. Fewer gave him a chance to win.

When Sugar Ray Leonard's hand was raised in victory, the shock was felt throughout the world for this was a fight bigger than boxing itself. Leonard had pulled off the impossible. He had disproved the ancient boxing axiom that "they never come back."

RUNNER-UP

Bobby Czyz was never mentioned in the same league as Hagler, but the young IBF light heavyweight champion from New Jersey was considered a rising star and the dominant force in his division when he entered the Las Vegas Hilton ring to defend his title against "Prince" Charles Williams.

Williams was given so little chance of winning that the title bout was stuck on the undercard of the Tommy Hearns-Juan Roldan show. While he



BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

Sugar Ray Leonard fires a left hook at a crouching Marvelous Marvin Hagler during one of the bristling exchanges between the pair. Leonard's brilliant points victory was THE RING'S Upset of the Year.

had given Marvin Johnson a decent scrap in 1984, he had lost that bout and his 21-4-2, 14 KOs record could be described charitably as undistinguished.

When Williams went down in both the second and third rounds, the odds favoring Czyz appeared justified. But Williams bounced back and thoroughly took apart the titleholder, forcing him to quit on his stool at the end of the ninth round.

The result ranks as runner-up for Upset of the Year.

HONORABLE MENTION

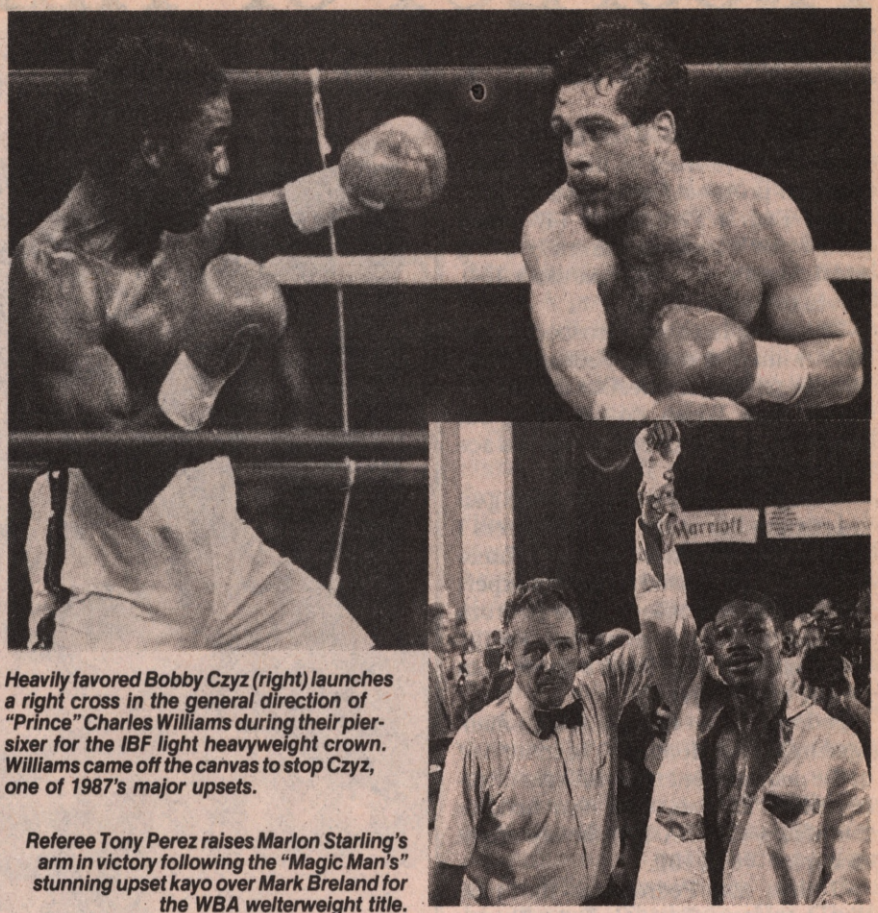
Some fights appear to be major upsets when they occur, but with the advantage of hindsight the outcomes seem less startling. Such is the case with Marlon Starling's 11th-round knockout of Mark Breland for Breland's WBA welterweight belt. Breland was unbeaten and had been touted as one of boxing's brightest young stars from his glorious amateur days. But Breland had been disappointing in his professional career and many were jumping off his bandwagon by the time he met Starling, an old pro who had learned his trade well in the trenches. Starling lost most of the first 10 rounds, but roughed up the fragile Breland in the process and finally flattened him in the 11th. There were the usual excuses, but, looking back, it seems Breland is simply another case of an inexperienced fighter grabbing hold of one of today's flimsy world title belts before he had truly learned his trade.

Another welterweight, this one the true world champion, was the victim of another stunner as Lloyd Honeyghan suffered his first defeat to Jorge Vaca. While the result was a major surprise, the bout's ending took away some of the shock as Vaca was cut and was awarded a technical decision by one point with the fight just half completed.

Two more unexpected results were the second-round flattening of highly rated lightweight Frankie Randall by Primo Ramos and the decision win by Rollin Williams over Tommy Ayers, who was penciled in for a shot at one of the welterweight titles before Williams pulled an upset.

Two junior welterweight titleholders found themselves the victims of surprises as Argentina's unheralded Juan Martin Coggi knocked out Patrizio Oliva in three rounds for the WBA junior welter belt. Oliva, a former Olympic champion, had a 48-0 record

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA



Heavily favored Bobby Czyz (right) launches a right cross in the general direction of "Prince" Charles Williams during their pier-sixer for the IBF light heavyweight crown. Williams came off the canvas to stop Czyz, one of 1987's major upsets.

Referee Tony Perez raises Marlon Starling's arm in victory following the "Magic Man's" stunning upset kayo over Mark Breland for the WBA welterweight title.

heading into the contest. Of lesser note, but still an upset of sorts, was veteran Roger Mayweather's demolition of Rene Arredondo in six rounds for the WBC belt. The hot and cold Mayweather bounced Arredondo around the ring like a basketball.

At the time, the second-round knockout scored by Colombia's Amancio Castro over former IBF lightweight king Jimmy Paul seemed a major surprise. But subsequent events have shown Castro to be a solid fighter, while Paul appears to be another in a growing list of average fighters who find themselves above their heads after latching onto so-called world championships.

The middleweight division had a few unexpected endings in addition to Leonard's victory over Hagler. On the international front, Sambu Kalambay came out of nowhere to upset England's Herol Graham, who was in line for a shot at one of the vacant titles. Kalambay got the shot instead, beating Iran Barkley for the WBA title. Of lesser note, but probably more surprising, was the night iron-jawed Doug DeWitt was flattened by lightly regarded Jose Quinones. Mike McCallum also produced a middleweight upset with one punch, destroying Donald Curry with a single left hook in Round Five. Since McCallum was unbeaten, it was an upset of minor proportions, but an upset still the same.

Overlooked by most, Virgil Hill joined the list of upset producers when he blitzed Leslie Stewart for Stewart's WBA light heavy laurels. While Stewart was far from an established champion, he had looked good in taking the crown from Marvin Johnson. Not many expected to see Hill standing over his prone form. Chicago's unbeaten Tony Willis may be a force Hill will have to reckon with. Early in the year, Willis posted a minor surprise by knocking out veteran Willie Edwards. But as the year closed, he produced a major stunner, coming from behind to stop rugged Ramzi Hassan in the 12th round for the vacant USBA crown.

And just before the close of the year, Jeff Franklin added his name to this list with a 10-round decision over second-ranked featherweight Steve Cruz. □

BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

PROSPECT OF THE YEAR
Kayo Artist Pedroza Red Hot

THE WHOLE WORLD LOVES A KAYO artist and *The Ring* is no exception. Our 1987 prospect for the year is undefeated Engels Pedroza, a 140-pound product of Venezuela currently living and fighting in the USA. Pedroza is 15-0, all via the quick route.

While undefeated prospects are often a dime a dozen, Pedroza looks like the genuine article. Our man in Las Vegas, Jack Welsh, has nothing but praise for him, as does Top Rank's ace matchmaker Bruce Trampler.

"Oddly enough, I was just making an impromptu list of the young fighters I want to work with in '88," said Trampler when we phoned to ask his expert opinion on new talent. "And Pedroza was the first name on my list. He figures highly in Top Rank's game plan for the coming year."

Pedroza, 22, is trained and co-managed by Jimmy Montoya. The other half of the management team is Vegas attorney Marc Risman, who also handles the affairs of WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill.

"I first saw Pedroza at the 1986 World Amateur Games in Reno," recalled Risman. "He looked very good and I made a mental note to keep my eye on him in the future. But when I saw him again at Ted Turner's Games in Moscow, I knew he was going to make a great pro."

To date, the only problem with Pedroza has been finding opponents good enough to give him a decent workout. When Angelo Dundee heard of these matchmaking difficulties, he quipped, "You may never find anyone to go more than two or three rounds with this guy."

Excellent boxing ability and dynamite punching power are not the only attributes Pedroza has going for him. He's also a handsome fellow with the kind of Latin charm that reminds folks of Alexis Arguello.

At this point in his budding career, Pedroza seems to have everything—good looks, a charismatic personality, the right connections, and most importantly: the punch to make it all work. That's why he's *The Ring's* Prospect of the Year.

RUNNER-UP

Our runner-up for prospect honors is *The Ring's* January '88 cover subject,

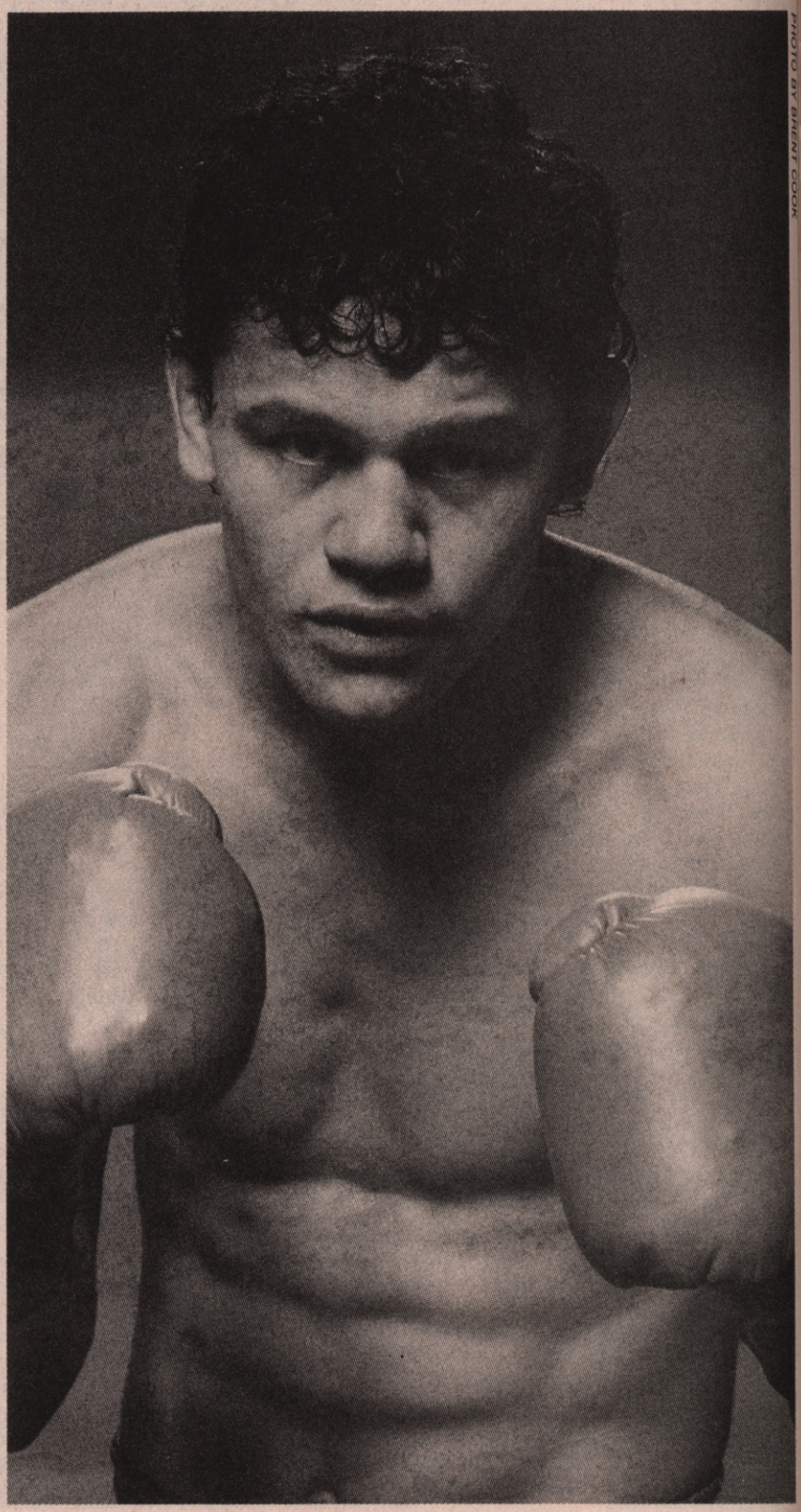


PHOTO BY BRENT COOK

THE RING'S Prospect of the Year for '87 in undefeated knockout artist Engels Pedroza of Venezuela.

Hiroki Ioka's WBC "strawweight" title might not mean much, but the 18-year-old Japanese is a talented young fighter worthy of note among 1987's prospects.

undefeated middleweight **Darrin Van Horn.** Those of you who read us every month already know the details of Van Horn's career. But for the scattered few who miss an occasional copy, suffice to say he's a young man with a very bright future.

At the recent Holyfield-Qawi rematch in Atlantic City, Van Horn opened the card against rugged Joe Summers. On most major cards, the curtain-raiser is when the fans grab a beer, visit the bathroom or mingle with their buddies. Those who remain in their seats usually sit on their hands yawning. But not this time.

The Van Horn-Summers scrap had them fired up from first bell to last. When it was over, many rose from their chairs and gave the fighters a standing ovation. That's the kind of excitement Van Horn generates with his give-and-take style. Sure, he takes a few too many shots, but so did such middleweight greats as Rocky Graziano and Jake LaMotta. Look for Van Horn to create plenty of waves in '88.

HONORABLE MENTION

English boxing took it hard in '87 when its two titleholders, Lloyd Honeyghan and Terry Marsh, fell by the wayside. But there's a hopeful future for the British boxing buff. His name is **Nigel Benn**. A powerful middleweight and veteran of four years in the British Army, Benn has streaked to 12 straight knockout wins since joining the pay-for-punch bunch.

"He's knocked out his share of stiffs," reported Reggie Gutteridge from the other side of the Big Pond. "But he's done it in style. Now he's stepping up in class and looked good beating useful American Reggie Miller. He's also got a good amateur background."

Following the Miller victory, British *Boxing News* headlined the fight report, "Brilliant Benn Comes of Age." Sounds like the Brits won't be down in the dumps too long.

On the other side of the globe we have **Hiroki Ioka,** who had the dubious distinction of being the first holder of the WBC "strawweight" title when he stopped Thailand's Mai Thonburifarm inside three rounds. But that doesn't mean the little man from Japan can't fight. At the tender age of 18, Ioka could very well carry on to win a number of crowns . . . including a legitimate one such as the flyweight championship.

Nigeria's latest gift to pro boxing is bantamweight **Akeem Anifowoshe,** who fights out of Billy Baxter's Las Vegas stable. About a zillion feet tall, Anifowoshe is 7-0 with five KOs and has a reach which has to be seen to be believed.

Australia hasn't come up with anybody remotely close to another Jeff Fenech of late, but **Troy Waters,** one of three boxing brothers, did very well in '87, winning the Commonwealth junior middleweight title from England's Lloyd Hibbert with a four-round kayo. "Waters boxed like a coming world champion," wrote Ray Mitchell, *The Ring's* man Down Under.

Last but not least, we have Sugar Ray Leonard's pro team, which boasts three excellent prospects in lightweight **Robert Byrd,** middleweight **Quincy Taylor** and featherweight **Eugene Speed.** □

MOST PROGRESS
Seabrooks Jumps From Journeyman To IBF Champ

ONE OF THE DEFINITIONS OF "PROGress" in *Webster's New World Dictionary* reads as follows: "to advance toward perfection or to a higher or better state." It is also an ideal description of the kind of year bantamweight Kelvin Seabrooks enjoyed in 1987.

At the beginning of the year, Seabrooks was just a have-gloves-will-travel sort, scratching out a living as a lively opponent for anyone between 118 and 130 pounds willing to give him a payday. As he admitted to *The Ring*, "I'd fight anyone for the money."

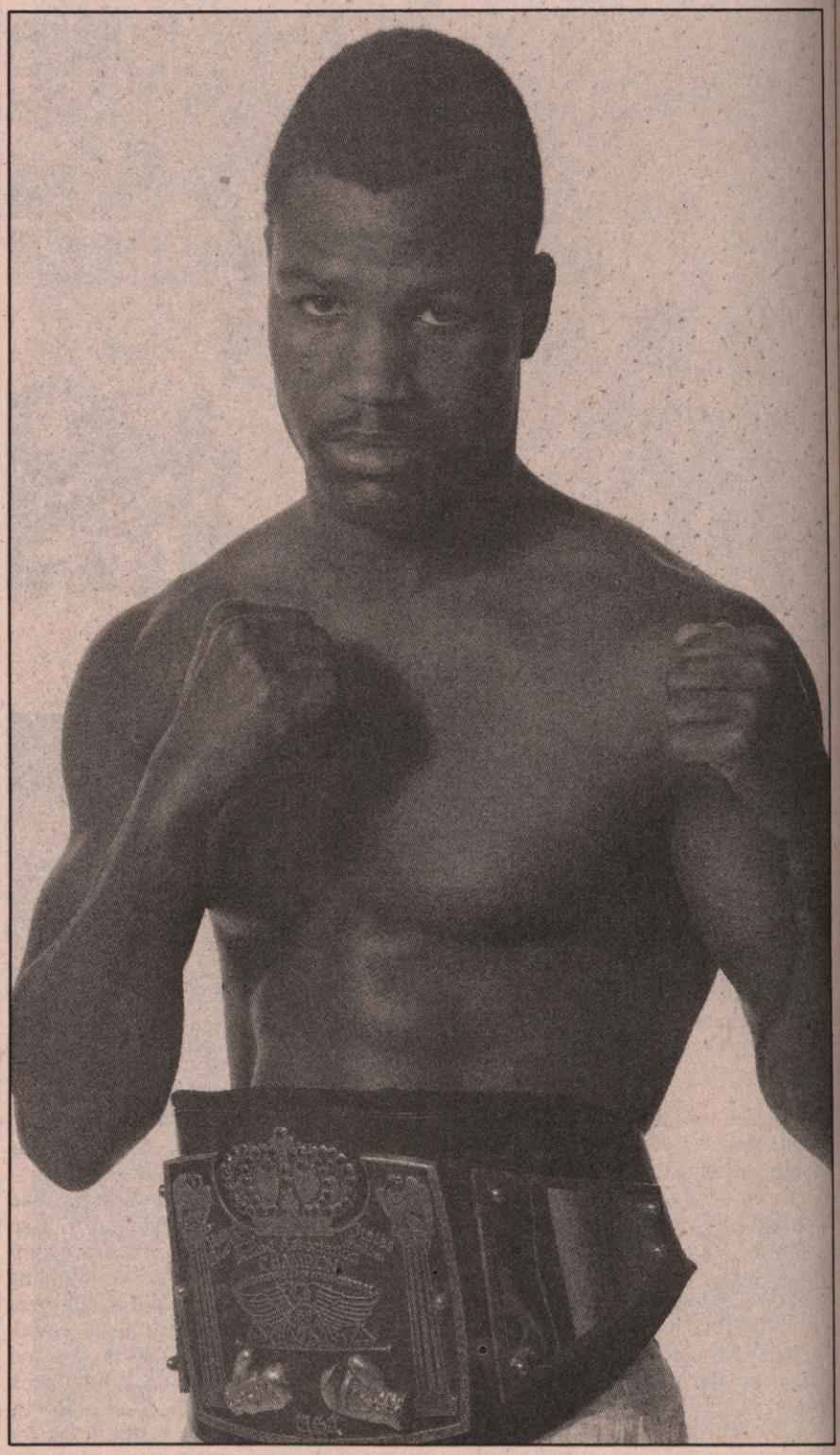
Though he'd been mismatched during the early part of his career, things picked up when the father and son team of Bill and Billy Reynolds took over Seabrooks' management. They refused to let him box men bigger than himself, something which had led to frequent defeats in the past.

The first big step came when Kelvin outbrawled Louis Curtis for the USBA 118-pound title over 12 see-saw rounds. This earned Seabrooks a crack at the vacant IBF bantam belt against Colombian Miguel Maturana in Cartagena. He took full advantage of the opportunity, icing Maturana in Round Five.

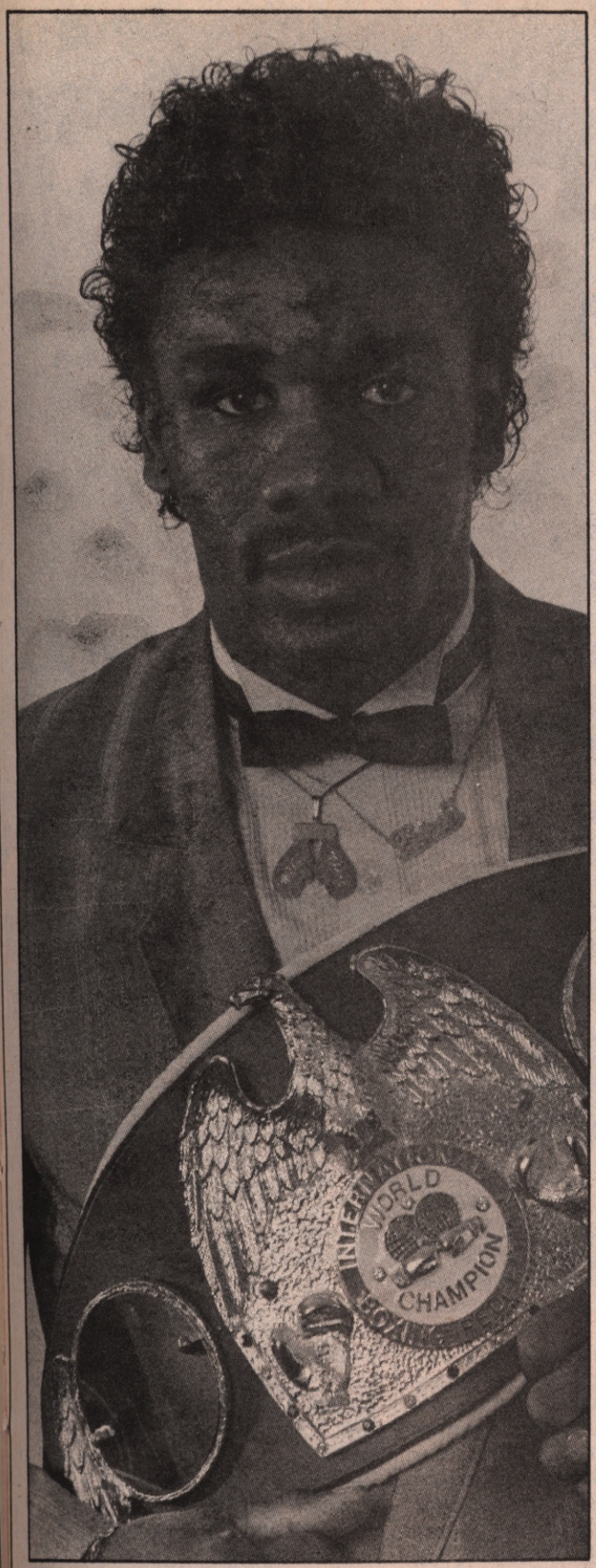
Though he owned a third of the bantamweight crown, Seabrooks was still practically unknown in the USA and was forced to hit the road again in order to cash in on his newly won title. He drew undefeated Frenchman Thierry Jacob, and when the pair met in Calais, they staged one of the best fights of the year. After a brutal struggle, Seabrooks emerged the victor when Jacob couldn't answer the bell for the 10th round.

Anxious to make hay while the sun shone, Seabrooks put his title on the line again before the end of the year, jetting back to Europe to face Filipino Ernie Cantuluna in San Cataldo, Sicily. It was another donneybrook, and Seabrooks was forced to overcome two first-round knockdowns before rallying back to stop his challenger with two knockdowns in the fourth.

"Kelvin's four fights in '87 have been four of the most exciting fights you'd ever want to see," said Reynolds Sr. "If



Making the Most Progress in 1987 was Kelvin Seabrooks, who won the IBF bantam title after several years of frustration on the small club circuit.



"Prince" Charles Williams proudly displays the IBF light heavyweight belt he won by stopping Bobby Czyz. The upset victory made Williams top runner-up in 1987's Most Progress department.

Julio Gervacio surprised a lot of people in '87, including Louie Espinoza, who he outpointed for the WBA junior featherweight title.

those four fights had been televised in this country, he'd be as big a star at home as he is in Europe."

In fact, Seabrooks is so popular in Europe, the British-based World Boxing Fan Association has adopted him as their favorite titleholder.

Of course, the most important part of Seabrooks' advancement has come at the pay window. The year 1987 saw his earnings skyrocket into the six-figure class. Now, that's what we call "progress!"

RUNNER-UP

Close on Seabrooks' heels for 1987's progress award is **"Prince" Charles Williams,** who came off the deck (twice) to stop favored Bobby Czyz for the IBF light heavyweight title. *The Ring* was caught with its pants down on this one: we didn't even have Williams rated in our top 10 going into the Czyz match.

A ham-n-egger just a year or so ago, Williams went on a winning streak after hooking up with Philly promoter Russell Peltz, which culminated with the Czyz upset. At 25, Williams could be just hitting his stride. He can box, punch, and as the Czyz bout showed in no uncertain terms, he can also take a helluva shot.

HONORABLE MENTION

The light heavyweight ranks are suddenly crowded with fresh new faces, eager to establish themselves as the "real" champion. **Virgil Hill**, the new WBA boss, is another boxer who took huge strides in '87. Though his silver medal in the '84 Olympics made him more of a "name" than Williams, he was still lightly regarded until he iced Leslie Stewart. Joining Hill and Williams at the top of the 175-pound heap is Canadian glamor boy, **Donny Lalonde,** who clobbered old-timer Eddie Davis for the WBC belt left vacant when Thomas Hearns moved back down to middleweight. A good banger with his right, Lalonde is handled by Dave Wolf, whose fighters are usually matched carefully and make a lot of money against relatively safe opponents.

Another Olympian who progressed to "titleholder" status in '87 was middleweight **Frank Tate**, who took fellow prospect Michael "The Silk" Olajide to the cleaners in their battle for the vacant IBF 160-pound title. Tate was the underdog in this showdown of unbeatens, but it was all the brave Olajide could do to last the 15-round distance. Look for Tate to be a serious candidate for Fighter of the Year honors in '88, especially if he beats one of the other two so-called middleweight champs.

Donny Lalonde's stock shot up in '87 when he knocked out ancient Eddie Davis for the vacant WBC light heavyweight title.

Olympic gold medalist Frank Tate really came into his own in '87, thrashing Michael Olajide for the IBF middleweight title.

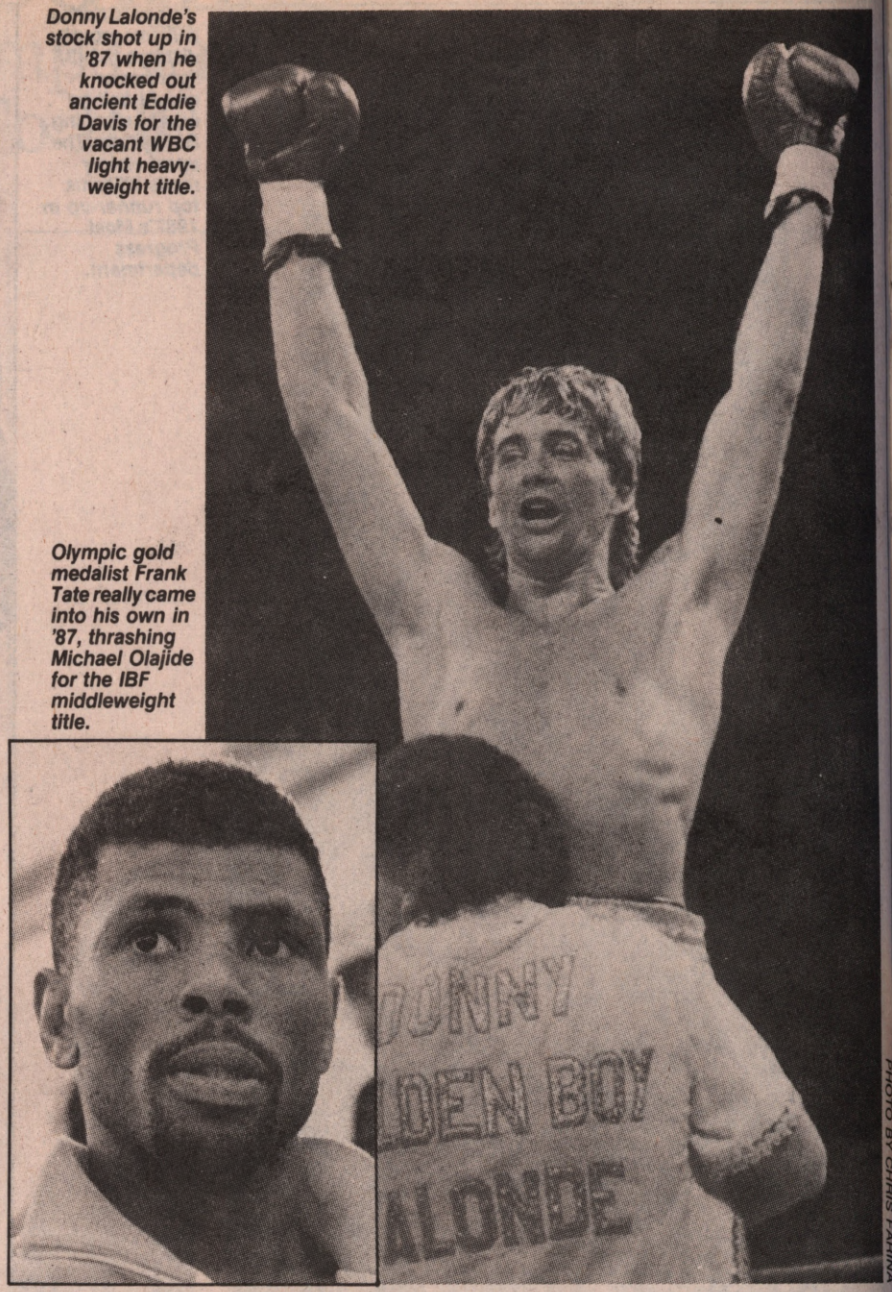
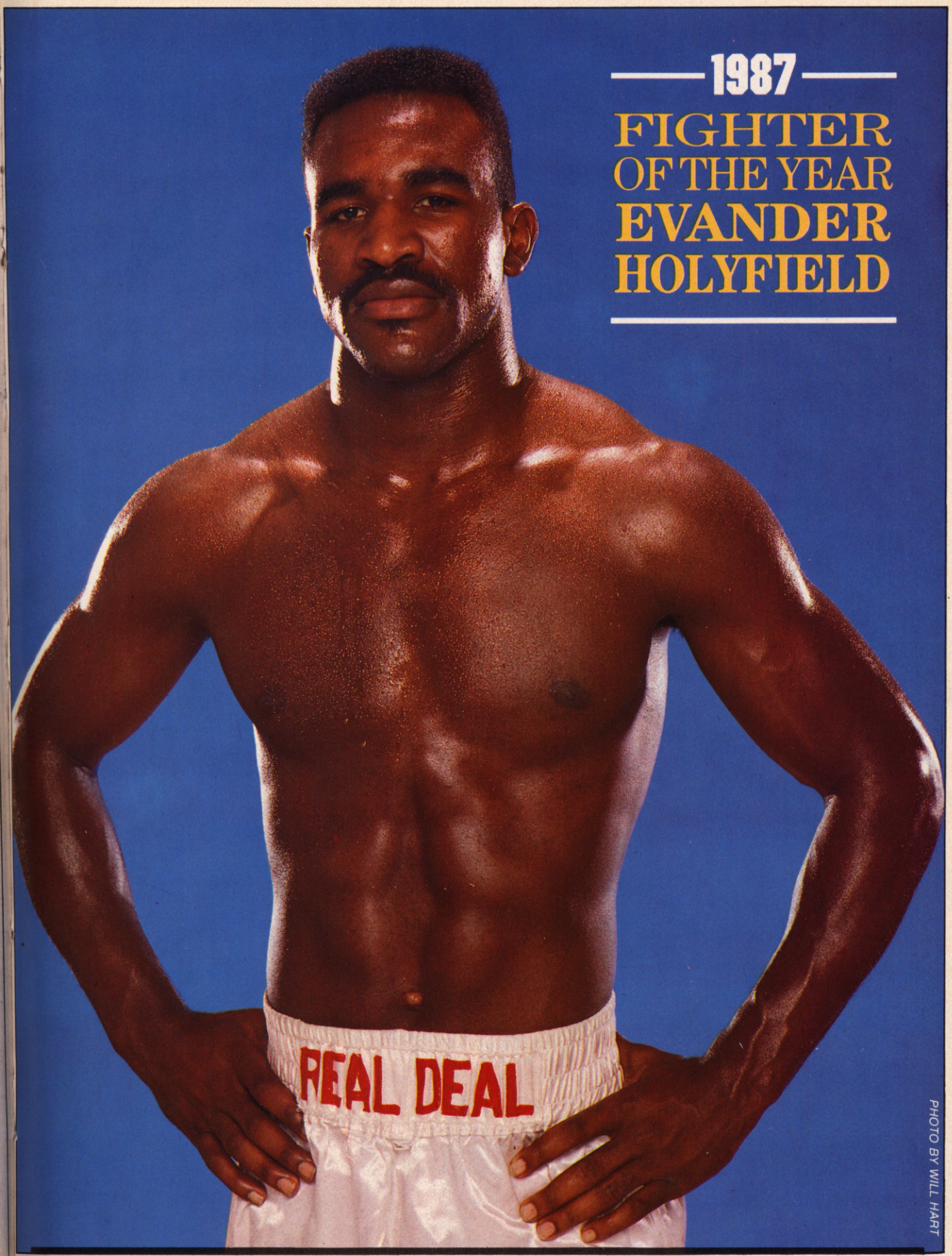


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Featherweight **Jeff Franklin** closed '87 with a rush, outpointing previously unbeaten Tracy Harris Patterson and then breaking into the world ratings with an upset points victory over former world 126-pound champion Steve Cruz. For a boxer who was considered little more than a tough "opponent" at the start of '87, Franklin's progress has been remarkable.

Others who came into prominence the past year were: **Matthew Hilton**, who decisioned Buster Drayton for the IBF junior middleweight belt; **Juan Martin Coggi**, who kayoed Patricio Oliva for the WBA junior welter crown; **Rollin Williams,** who entered the welterweight ratings with an upset over Tommy Ayers; **Julio Gervacio,** who upset Louie Espinoza for the WBA junior feather championship; and hard-punching 130-pounder **Harold "The Shadow" Knight,** who is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the most dangerous hitters in boxing. □


1987
FIGHTER
OF THE YEAR
EVANDER
HOLYFIELD
REAL DEAL
PHOTO BY WILL HART

The RING RATINGS AS OF JANUARY 5, 1988

HEAVYWEIGHTS (No Weight Limit) WORLD CHAMPION

MICHAEL SPINKS	Missouri
1. Mike Tyson	New York
2. Evander Holyfield	Georgia
3. Tony Tucker	Michigan
4. Tim Witherspoon	Pennsylvania
5. Pinklon Thomas	Michigan
6. Carl Williams	New York
7. Trevor Berbick	Florida
8. Adilson Rodrigues	Brazil
9. Tyrell Biggs	Pennsylvania
10. Mike Weaver	California

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS (Not Over 175 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Charles Williams	Ohio
2. Virgil Hill	North Dakota
3. Bobby Czyz	New Jersey
4. Leslie Stewart	Trinidad
5. Dennis Andries	England
6. Tony Willis	Illinois
7. Don Lalonde	Canada
8. Chong-Pal Park	Korea
9. Lindell Holmes	Michigan
10. Ramzi Hassan	California

MIDDLEWEIGHTS (Not Over 160 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Thomas Hearns	Michigan
2. Marvin Hagler	Massachusetts
3. Frank Tate	Texas
4. Sumbu Kalambay	Italy
5. Mike McCallum	Jamaica
6. Michael Nunn	California
7. Michael Olajide	Canada
8. Iran Barkley	New York
9. Matthew Hilton	Canada
10. Herol Graham	England

WELTERWEIGHTS (Not Over 147 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

JORGE VACA	Mexico
1. Marlon Starling	Connecticut
2. Lloyd Honeyghan	England
3. Maurice Blocker	Washington, D.C.
4. Mark Breland	New York
5. Simon Brown	Washington, D.C.
6. Rollin Williams	Arizona
7. Juan Martin Coggi	Argentina
8. Tyrone Trice	Michigan
9. Roger Mayweather	Nevada
10. Frankie Warren	Texas

LIGHTWEIGHTS (Not Over 135 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Julio Cesar Chavez	Mexico
2. Vinny Pazienza	Rhode Island
3. Pernell Whitaker	Virginia
4. Jose Luis Ramirez	Mexico
5. Edwin Rosario	Puerto Rico
6. Meldrick Taylor	Pennsylvania
7. Greg Haugen	Washington
8. Primo Ramos	Mexico
9. Rocky Lockridge	New Jersey
10. Amancio Castro	Colombia

FEATHERWEIGHTS (Not Over 126 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA	Venezuela
1. Azumah Nelson	Ghana
2. Jeff Fenech	Australia
3. Calvin Grove	Pennsylvania
4. Julio Gervacio	Dominican Republic
5. Jeff Franklin	Nevada
6. Victor Callejas	Puerto Rico
7. Hector Lopez	California
8. Marcos Villasana	Mexico
9. Steve Cruz	Texas
10. Louie Espinoza	Arizona

BANTAMWEIGHTS (Not Over 118 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

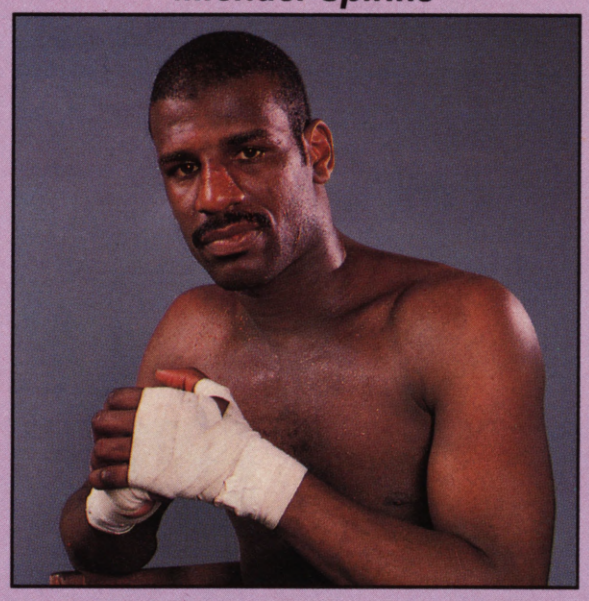
1. Miguel Lora	Colombia
2. Kaosai Galaxy	Thailand
3. Sugar Baby Rojas	Colombia
4. Kelvin Seabrooks	South Carolina
5. Raul Perez	Mexico
6. Wilfredo Vasquez	Puerto Rico
7. Santos Laciar	Argentina
8. Gilberto Roman	Mexico
9. Frankie Duarte	California
10. Gaby Canizales	Texas

FLYWEIGHTS (Not Over 112 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

SOT CHITALADA	Thailand
1. Jung-Koo Chang	Korea
2. Fidel Bassa	Colombia
3. Myung-Woo Yuh	Korea
4. Hilario Zapata	Panama
5. Chang-Ho Choi	Korea
6. Gabriel Bernal	*Mexico*
7. Dodie Penalosa	*Philippines*
8. Paul Gonzales	California
9. Benedicto Murillo	Panama
10. Duke McKenzie	England

The RING CALENDAR APRIL 1988

Michael Spinks



1 FRIDAY
1961—Emile Griffith KO13 Benny "Kid" Paret, Miami Beach (won world welterweight title)

2 SATURDAY
1927—Carmen Basilio born Canastota, N.Y.

3 SUNDAY
1955—James "Bonecrusher" Smith born in Magnolia, N.C.

4 MONDAY
1971—Guty Espadas W6 Chucho Loria, Tizimin, Mexico (Espadas' pro debut)

5 TUESDAY
1915—Jess Willard KO26 Jack Johnson, Havana, Cuba to win world heavyweight title (first world title bout in Cuba).

6 WEDNESDAY
1900—James J. Jeffries KO1 Jack Finnegan, Detroit (retained world heavyweight title).

7 THURSDAY
1896—Benny Leonard born, New York City.

8 FRIDAY
1831—Jem "The Gypsy" Mace born, Beeston, Norwich, England.

9 SATURDAY
1984—Gabriel Bernal KO2 Koji Kobayashi, Tokyo, Japan (won WBC flyweight title).

10 SUNDAY
1927—Young Corbett died, Denver, Col.

11 MONDAY
1898—Joe Gans KO3 Young Starlight, Baltimore, Md.

12 TUESDAY
1961—Miguel "Happy" Lora born, Monteria, Cordoba, Colombia.

13 WEDNESDAY
1966—Pone Kingpetch KO4 Kumantong Yontrakit, Bangkok, Thailand (Kingpetch's last pro bout).

14 THURSDAY
1964—Paul Fujii KO2 Minoru Goto, Tokyo (Fujii's pro debut).

15 FRIDAY
1795—"Gentleman" John Jackson KO9 Daniel Mendoza, Hornchurch, Essex, England.

16 SATURDAY
1951—Gil Turner W10 Beau Jack, Philadelphia, Pa.

17 SUNDAY
1977—Michael Spinks KO1 Eddie Benson, Las Vegas, (Spinks' pro debut).

18 MONDAY
1940—Charles "Kid" McCoy committed suicide, Detroit, Mich.

19 TUESDAY
1929—Duilio Loi born Trieste, Italy.

20 WEDNESDAY
1911—Joe Jeannette KO9 Al Kubiak, New York City.

21 THURSDAY
1963—Ingemar Johansson W12 Brian London (Johansson's last bout).

22 FRIDAY
1903—Jack "Twin" Sullivan D10 Eddie Connolly, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

23 SATURDAY
1922—Eddie "Cannonball" Martin KO3 Jack North, Brooklyn, N.Y.

24 SUNDAY
1961—Roger Mayweather born, Grand Rapids, Mich.

25 MONDAY
1950—Former world flyweight champion Rinty Monaghan announced his retirement.

26 TUESDAY
1985—Jeff Fenech KO9 Satoshi Shingaki, Moore Park, Australia (won IBF bantamweight title).

27 WEDNESDAY
1933—James "Red" Herring KO4 Harry Wilson, Utica, N.Y. (Herring's last pro bout).

28 THURSDAY
1981—Mickey Walker died, Freehold, N.J.

29 FRIDAY
1967—Efran "Alacran" Torres KO5 Famoso Gomes, Mexico City (retained Mexican flyweight title).

30 SATURDAY
1976—Muhammad Ali W15 Jimmy Young, Landover, Md. (retained world heavyweight title).

PHOTO BY ALL-SPORT

1987

"Fight of the Year"

Sugar Ray Leonard W12
Marvelous Marvin Hagler

1987

"Fighter of the Year"

Evander Holyfield caps '87 with a fourth-round kayo over Dwight Muhammad Qawi

PHOTO BY ERIC B. HUGHES

Gene Tunney 1928

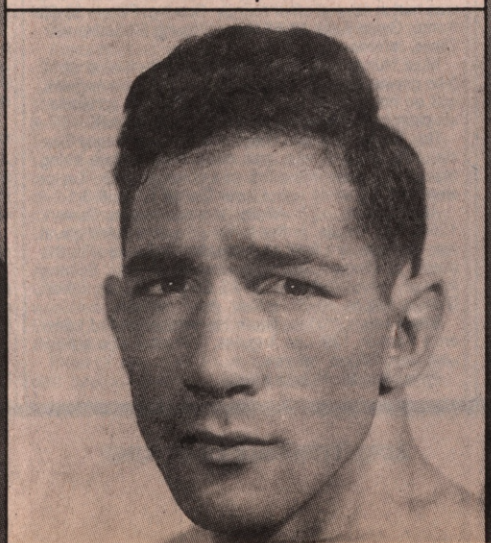
Fred Apostoli 1943

Joe Frazier 1967, 70, 71

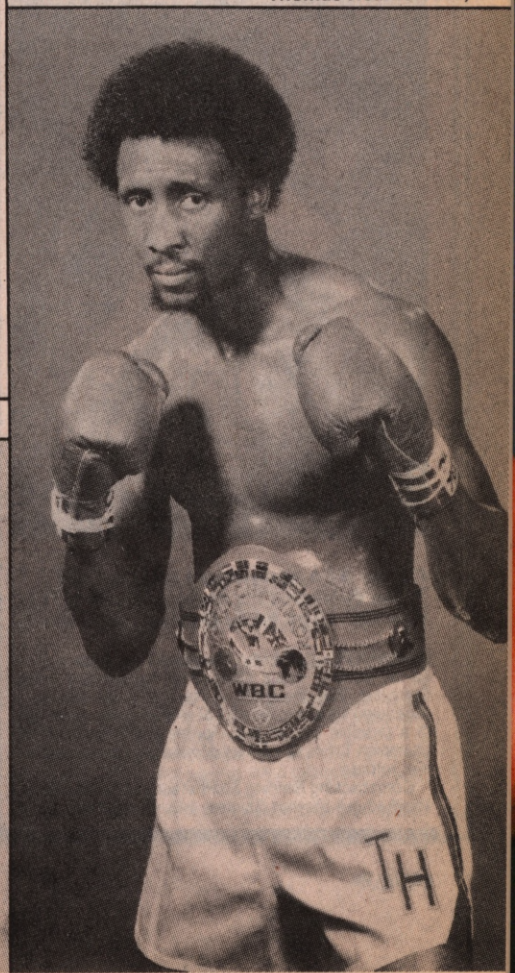
THE RING'S "FIGHTER OF THE YEAR" ... SINCE 1928

1928 Gene Tunney	1960 Floyd Patterson
1929 Tommy Loughran	1961 Joe Brown
1930 Max Schmeling	1962 Dick Tiger
1931 Tommy Loughran	1963 Cassius Clay
1932 Jack Sharkey	1964 Emile Griffith
1933 No Award	1965 Dick Tiger
1934 Tony Canzoneri	1966 No Award
Barney Ross	1967 Joe Frazier
1935 Barney Ross	1968 Nino Benvenuti
1936 Joe Louis	1969 Jose Napoles
1937 Henry Armstrong	1970 Joe Frazier
1938 Joe Louis	1971 Joe Frazier
1939 Joe Louis	1972 Muhammad Ali
1940 Billy Conn	Carlos Monzon
1941 Joe Louis	1973 George Foreman
1942 Ray Robinson	1974 Muhammad Ali
1943 Fred Apostoli	1975 Muhammad Ali
1944 Beau Jack	1976 George Foreman
1945 Willie Pep	1977 Carlos Zarate
1946 Tony Zale	1978 Muhammad Ali
1947 Gus Lesnevich	1979 Ray Leonard
1948 Ike Williams	1980 Thomas Hearns
1949 Ezzard Charles	1981 Ray Leonard
1950 Ezzard Charles	Salvador Sanchez
1951 Ray Robinson	1982 Larry Holmes
1952 Rocky Marciano	1983 Marvelous Marvin
1953 Carl (Bobo) Olson	Hagler
1954 Rocky Marciano	1984 Thomas Hearns
1955 Rocky Marciano	1985 Marvelous Marvin
1956 Floyd Patterson	Hagler
1957 Carmen Basilio	Donald Curry
1958 Ingemar Johansson	1986 Mike Tyson
1959 Ingemar Johansson	

Willie Pep 1945



Salvador Sanchez 1981



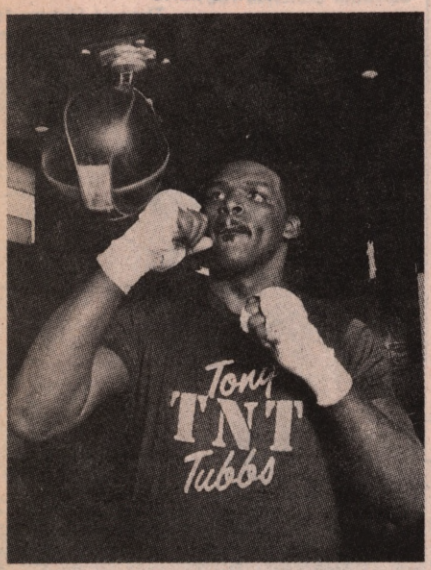
Thomas Hearns 1980, 84

RINGS AROUND THE WORLD

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA



Former WBA heavyweight kingpin Tony Tubbs continued his comeback with a TKO over soft-touch Eddie Gonzalez in Anaheim.

▶**ANAHEIM—Celebrity Theater**—Tony Tubbs, 229, Santa Monica, easily stopped an overweight Eddie Gonzalez, 226, Houston, at the end of the third of a scheduled 10. Gonzalez (25-6) retired in his corner due to a possible broken jaw. Former WBA heavyweight champion Tubbs (24-1) had dominated. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Comebacking Sterling McPherson, 140, Las Vegas, knocked out Stewart Baynes, 143, Pasadena, in 2:05 of the third of a scheduled 10. Baynes (6-8) was down twice. McPherson improved his record to 17-4-1. Lou Moret, referee.

Rico Velasquez, 122, San Gabriel, punched out a win over Arnulfo Luna, 132, Bakersfield, referee Larry Rozadilla rescuing Luna (15-13-2) from a bad beating in 1:06 of the third of a scheduled 10. Hard-hitting Velasquez (13-4) is one of California's better prospects.

Lalo Velasquez, 132, San Gabriel, notched a family double with a third-round (:57) stoppage over poor Victory Gonzalez, 126, Bakersfield. Velasquez (12-2) ended the scheduled eight with a crushing left hook to the body after Gonzalez (7-10) had been down in the second and early in the third from right hands. Vince Delgado, referee.

Unbeatens Juan Marchena, 128¾, Ensenada, and Philip Ortiz, 132, Los Angeles, drew, four. Scoring: Moret 39-38 Ortiz; Rozadilla 39-38 Marchena; Delgado 38-38. Fritz Werner, referee.

Debuting Nate Tubbs, 242, Cincinnati, unanimously outpointed Sim Warrior, 213, East Los Angeles, four. Younger brother Nate floored Warrior (1-1) in the second. Werner, referee.

Physicians: Dr. Michael Deluca & Dr. Mario Ficarola.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Danny Valdioia.
Matchmaker: Tom Peters.
Promoter: Ashland Capitol Management.
(9-29-87)

▶**RESEDA—The Country Club**—Tim Williams, 159¾, San Diego, won the vacant California middleweight title by stopping Alex Ramos, 160, Downey, in the eighth of a scheduled 12. Ramos (27-7-2) tried harder and was ahead on points after six rounds. But Williams (13-3-1) floored him twice with lefts in the seventh. And when Ramos turned his back after taking a heavy right in the eighth, referee Pat Russell had no choice but to step in. Scoring through seven: Dick Young 67-64 Williams; Lou Filippo 66-66; Kenny Davis 67-65 Williams.

Light heavyweight prospect Nate Houser, 173, Long Beach, lost his unbeaten record when he was outpointed by awkward Milford Kemp, 172, Venice, six. The verdict was split, but Kemp (10-3-3) was certainly in control. Houser (4-1) went down hard in the first and was hurt in several other rounds. Scoring: Filippo 58-56 Kemp; Gwen Adair 58-55 Kemp; Young 57-56 Houser. Davis, referee.

Mike Hunter, 203, Los Angeles, made it nine of 12 (two draws) when Rodney Stockton, 196, Los Angeles, quit on his stool at the end of the first of a scheduled six claiming a throat injury. Lou Filippo, referee.

Ray Taylor, 137, San Diego, knocked out Danny Garcia, 135, Oxnard, who was down twice before being rescued by Adair in the first of a scheduled six. Taylor went to 6-2-2 while upset loser Garcia fell to 8-3-1.

Abe Gomez, 127, Arleta, stopped Amos Cowart, 125¾, Las Vegas, in the fourth of a scheduled six. It was an excellent fight of fluctuating fortunes with the desire of Gomez (7-0) the deciding factor. Scoring through three: Delgado 30-28 Cowart; Young 29-28 Cowart; Filippo 30-27 Gomez. Adair, referee.

Steve Lewis, 137½, North Hollywood, halted Lawrence Farmer, 139, Los Angeles, in the first of a scheduled four. Filippo, referee.

Physician: Dr. Robert Karns.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Larry Goossen.
Promoter: Ten Goose Boxing.
(9-29-87)

▶**INGLEWOOD—The Forum**—Hector Lopez, 126, Glendale, won The Forum Featherweight Championship and the top prize of $75,000 when his scheduled 12-round bout with George Navarro, 126, Vineland, was stopped at the end of the second round. Both fighters were cut on the right eye after an accidental head clash, but Lopez (15-1) could not continue. Because he was ahead 30-28 on all scorecards, Lopez was awarded a technical decision. The verdict was hotly disputed by the Navarro camp, which assumed its fighter had won. Navarro lost for the second time in 18 fights, but because of the controversial ending, he will not lose his high world rating. John Thomas, referee.

Felipe Canela, 147, Alhambra, advanced in The Forum Welterweight Tournament with a unanimous 10-round decision over Derwin Richards, 147, Houston. Richards (16-4-1) would not be overwhelmed by the two-handed heavy-hitting Canela (26-6-3) and even won some of the later rounds. In fact, he showed disappointment at the verdict, but ex-California champion Canela was a clear winner. Scoring: Danny Millsap 98-93; Larry Rozadilla 98-94; Raul Caiz 97-94. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Derrick Kelly, 147, Carson, also impressively made it to the welterweight semifinals with a unanimous decision over Anthony Pearson, 147, Paterson. Kelly (18-1-2) used his experience to outsmart and intimidate young Pearson (12-1-1). Scoring: Caiz 97-94; Rozadilla 99-92; Jen-Kin 99-91. Chuck Hassett, referee.

Vicente Gonzalez, 128, Cudahy, took a unanimous decision over late substitute Ralph Gutierrez, 125, Los Angeles, in a hard-fought eight which drew a shower of coins from ringsiders. Crowd-pleaser Gonzalez, (8-3-2) won it in the last two rounds. Gutierrez (7-14-5) was floored by a body shot in the seventh and suffered through a very rocky eighth. Scoring: Hassett 77-74; Millsap 77-75; Caiz 76-74. Rozadilla, referee.

James Alger, 128, Ontario, knocked down house favorite Ruben Maldonado, 128, Los Angeles, with right hands in both the second and third rounds and won in 49 seconds of the third of a scheduled four. Caiz, referee.

Caiz also counted out Ricardo Arrellano, 145, Los Angeles, who was flattened by Norman Gabourel, 146, Los Angeles, in just 1:23 of the first of a scheduled five.

Physicians: Dr. Bernhart Schwartz & Dr. Robert Karns.
Timekeepers: Ernie Snow & Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Promoter: Jerry Buss
(10-1-87)

▶**LOS ANGELES—Sports Arena**—21-year-old Rico Velasquez, 135, San Gabriel, scored a huge upset when he stopped world rated (No. 3 IBF, No. 9 WBC) Olympic Bronze Medalist Chil-Sung Chun, 137, Seoul, due to a closed left eye at the end of the fourth of a scheduled 10. It was a war with both fighters wobbling several times. But Velasquez (14-4) was ahead (40-37, 39-38, 38-38) and definitely held the upper hand in the fourth. Chung (8-1) lost a point for holding and hitting. A return in Korea seems likely. Chuck Hassett, referee.

Lalo Velasquez, 129, San Gabriel, also shocked the Korean promoters by knocking out Doo San Kim, 126, Seoul, in 2:28 of the first of a scheduled eight. Velasquez (13-2) was landing without reply when referee Hassett stepped in. Southpaw Kim (8-3) had been down twice.

Clubfighter Henry Lugo, 126, San Jose, drew with Korean prospect Yung Woon Park, 126, Seoul, after 10 excellent action-packed rounds. Southpaw Park (11-0-1) won the 10th on all cards to pull even. A great result for Lugo (7-6-1). Scoring: Danny Millsap 97-94 Park; Gwen Adair 96-94 Lugo; Hassett 95-95. Larry Rozadilla, referee.

Kano Chul, 142, Seoul, kayoed Jorge Rivera, 140, Mexicali, in 2:35 of the third of a scheduled eight. Another exciting fight with Rivera (8-1) down in the first but in charge when he was caught coming in by a Chul (10-2) right hand. Referee Dr. James Jen-Kin counted out Rivera after a second knockdown in the third.

Robert Lewis, 136, Los Angeles, was too strong and mature for ill-prepared teenager Luis Mora, 136, Tijuana, winning unanimously eight. Mora (14-3-1) showed up at the arena without his mouthpiece and more importantly without management. Lewis improved his record to 7-7-3. Scoring: Millsap 78-74; Rozadilla 78-76; Hassett 80-72. Adair, referee.

Physicians: Dr. Bernhart Schwartz & Dr. Michael Deluca.

Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Jerry Niss.
Promoter: Ho Kim.
(10-8-87)

▶**LOS ANGELES—Sports Arena**—Ronnie Shields, 144, Port Arthur, earned a high world rating with a clear 10-round unanimous decision over former title challenger Rodolfo "Gato" Gonzalez, 144, Mexico City. Gonzalez (39-6-1) fought from the third round with a cut over his left eye and absorbed a lot of punishment. Shields (26-5-1) won by scores of 98-92, 98-93 and 97-93. John Thomas, referee.

Roberto Rosiles, 158, Blythe, scored the best win of his young career when he kayoed Anthony Wiley, 158, Houston, with a left hook in the sixth of a scheduled eight. Rosiles (10-2-1) was well behind on points. Wiley fell to 10-4-3. Robert Byrd, referee.

Busier Lonnie Bryant, 132, unanimously edged (39-38, 39-37 twice) Robert Smith, 132, San Diego, four. Kenny Davis, referee.

Unbeaten (5-0) Ysaias Zamudio, 112, Blythe, easily outpointed sparring partner Ramiro Garcia, 112, Blythe, six. Vince Delgado, referee.

Jorge Rodriguez, 124, Los Angeles, won a decisive unanimous decision over Willie Garcia, 123, San Diego, six. Rudy Jordan, referee.

Physicians: Dr. Robert Karns & Dr. Michael Deluca.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon.
Matchmaker: Harry Kabakoff.
(10-9-87)

▶**LONG BEACH—Spruce Goose Dome**—Joey Olivera, 135, Pasadena, won the California lightweight title when defending champion Ernie Landeros, 135, Eagle Rock, could not continue after six rounds of a scheduled 12 because of a painful swelling on the side of his head. Olivera (20-13-1) absorbed tremendous punishment in every round, but the marks of non-stop warfare belonged to Landeros (15-5-3), who bled from a scalp wound and from cuts over both eyes. The stronger and harder punching Landeros was clearly ahead on the card of Lou Moret (and *The Ring*) 59-55, and Pat Russell also favored him 58-57. Fritz Werner surprisingly made it 58-56 Olivera. Rudy Jordan, referee.

Local Dave Yonko, 234, put away George Stephens, 208, Boulder, in just 2:45 of the first of a scheduled six. Yonko (9-4) dropped Stephens (4-2) two times. Moret, referee.

Lupe Hernandez, 128, Los Angeles, earned a unanimous points win over awkward Alberto Tellez, 127, East Los Angeles, six. Scoring: Moret 58-56; Russell 60-55; Jordan 60-55. Werner, referee.

Sim Warrior, 215, East Los Angeles, threw the more accurate punches and won a majority decision over Kenneth Scott, 224, Moreno Valley, four. Scoring: Jordan 38-38; Russell 40-37; Moret 39-37. Werner, referee.

18-year-old Eddie Valdivia, 122, Artesia, survived cuts over both eyes to impressively win his debut four-rounder over Enio Franco, 122, Los Angeles, all three officials scoring 39-37. Russell, referee.

Physician: Dr. Michael Deluca.
Timekeeper: Ernie Snow.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Promoter: Don Fraser.
(10-14-87)

▶**SAN DIEGO—El Cortez Hotel**—Ricky Romero, 112½, Carson, made it 11 wins but he had to work very hard to unanimously outscore tough Tijuanan Abraham Garcia, 112¾, in an all-action eight. Garcia (12-9) never quit, but he was rocked often by the unbeaten Romero. Both boxers were cut near the right eye. Scoring: Hal Rickards 80-73; Pat Russell 79-74; Frank Rustich 78-74. Robert Byrd, referee.

Dwain Bonds, 215, Los Angeles, knocked out washed-up former cruiserweight champion S.T. Gordon, 194, Redondo Beach, in just :49 of the first of a scheduled eight. Gordon (24-7) had been down and was defenseless when referee Rustich stepped in. Bonds' record in only 13-13-2.

Veteran Hector Diaz, 119¼, San Diego, won a six-round split decision over Francisco Chavez, 117, Huntington Beach. Scoring: Byrd 58-56 Chavez; Russell 58-57 Diaz; Rickards 59-57 Diaz. Eddie Rodriguez, referee.

Tosand Jewel, 157½, Los Angeles, got up from a second-round knockdown to win a four-round unanimous decision over David Smith, 158¾, Campo. Jewell (3-2) won every other round. Russell, referee.

Also climbing up to win was Micah Bates, 117½, Los Angeles, who kayoed Willie Garcia, 120½, San Diego, in :42 of the fifth and final round. Other than the second-round knockdown, Bates (6-0) dominated, flooring Garcia in the first and fifth. Russell, referee.

Physician: Dr. William Lundeen.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Ernie Swanks.
Matchmaker: Eric Bonilla.
Promoter: Lilian Delippis.
(10-15-87)

▶**IRVINE—Marriott Hotel**—Tommy Perez, 154, Santa Ana, won a technical decision over Gilbert Baptist, 155, San Diego, when he was cut over the right eye by a head butt in the seventh round of a scheduled 10. Baptist (6-6) scored heavily at times, but spent much of the fight on the ropes. Perez (16-3) was ahead on points 58-56 (Robert Byrd), 59-55 (Chuck Hassett) and 58-56 (Gwen Adair). Rudy Jordan, referee.

Richard Aguirre, 155, Covina, and L.T. Canty, 154, San Diego, drew, eight. The fight was marred by numerous clinches with neither Aguirre (14-2-1) nor Canty (5-6-1) able to gain advantage. Scoring: Jordan 76-76; Byrd 79-74 Aguirre; Adair 76-75 Canty. Hassett, referee.

Robert Smith, 139, San Diego, needed only :31 to knock out Sal Lujan, 138, Huntington Beach. Robert Byrd, referee.

Juan Marchena, 131, Westminster, halted Carlos Saldivar, 129, Los Angeles, who was counted out by referee Byrd in 2:38 of the third.

Ben Lopez, 132, Ontario, made it two in a row on his comeback with a stoppage of Jose Veloz, 133, San Diego, in 2:50 of the third of a scheduled four. Veloz proved courageous, but he was floored three times. Adair, referee.

Ruben Proa, 143, San Diego, knocked out Doug James, 146, Los Angeles, in the fifth round of the show closer. Adair, referee.

Physicians: Dr. Michael Deluca & Dr. Mario Ficarola.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Promoter: Don Fraser.
(10-29-87)

▶**INGLEWOOD—The Forum**—Derrick Kelly, 147, Carson, advanced to the finals of The Forum Welterweight Tournament with an excellent 10-round unanimous decision over world-rated Luis Santana, 146½, Los Angeles. Kelly (19-1-2) dropped Santana (31-7-1, 24 KOs) in the second and fourth. Scoring: Dr. James Jen-Kin 96-92; Lou Moret 98-90; Vince Delgado 96-93. Larry Rozadilla, refereee.

Juan Jose Estrada, 119, Tijuana, looked unlucky to lose a technical decision to Albert Davila, 119, Pomona, at the end of the third of a scheduled 10. Davila (51-9-1) was inconclusively ahead on points (29-28, 29-28, and 29-29) when he sustained a cut over the left eye from a head clash. Estrada's record fell to 30-7. Jen-Kin, referee.

Terry Davis, 225, Van Nuys, stopped veteran Ivy Brown, 224, Kansas City, who quit complaining of a cut left eye in 1:52 of the second of a scheduled eight. Brown (31-20) had hurt Davis (10-0-1) in the first. Moret, referee.

Nigerian World Akpan, 146½, Hollywood, defeated Norman Gabourel, 147, Los Angeles, in 1:08 of the fourth of a scheduled six. Gabourel was correctly disqualified by referee Raul Caiz for persistent holding.

Tosand Jewell, 159, Los Angeles, knocked out Quincy Hinnant, 158, Inglewood, with a right hand in 2:42 of the first of a scheduled four. Caiz, referee.

James Alger, 128, Ontario, stopped Uri Galvan, 128, Los Angeles, in 2:09 of the third of a scheduled four. Alger (5-2) was in total control when referee Delgado stepped in.

Physicians: Dr. Bernhart Schwartz & Dr. Michael Deluca.
Timekeepers: Ernie Snow & John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Promoter: Jerry Buss.
(11-3-87)

▶**RESEDA—The Country Club**—Andre Smith, 193, San Diego, unanimously outpointed Mike Hunter, 200, Los Angeles, over eight dull rounds. There were very few punches thrown by either Smith (10-1) or Hunter (9-2-2). Referee John Thomas had to continually ask for more action. Scoring: Eddie Rodriguez 78-75; Kenny Davis 78-74; Larry Rozadilla 79-75.

Ray Taylor, 138, Chula Vista, had a workout at the expense of usually dangerous Oscar Ornelas, 135, Commerce, winning unanimously, six. Taylor (7-3-2) won clearly, but Ornelas (3-4-3) was never in trouble. Scoring: Rozadilla 59-55; Thomas 60-55; Davis 60-54. Rodriguez, referee.

Efren Chavez, 119, South El Monte, won a one-point split decision over Juvenal Molina, 119¾, East Los Angeles, six. Scoring: Rodriguez 58-57 Chavez; Thomas 58-57 Molina; Rozadilla 58-57 Chavez. Davis, referee.

Calvin Meeks, 141¾, Los Angeles, was a bloody unanimous four-round winner over exciting Steve Lewis, 140, Sherman Oaks. Lewis (2-1) came out slugging in the first, but took a brutal beating from Meeks (5-0) the rest of the way. Rodriguez, referee.

Alex Aveles, 140, Las Puente, made a successful pro start with a unanimous verdict over game Efren Granillo, 140, San Jose, four. Aveles was cut over both eyes when winless Granillo rallied to win his only round in the fourth. Rozadilla, referee.

Les Fabri, 120, North Hollywood, unanimously outpointed Luciano Martinez, 119, Los Angeles, four, all three officials scoring 40-36. Davis, referee.

Physicians: Dr. Robert Karns & Dr. Dwight Trautwetter.
Timekeeper: Ernie Snow.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: Larry Goossen.
Promoter: Ten Goose Boxing.
(11-5-87)

DEAN LOHUIS

FLORIDA

▶**HIALEAH—Milander Auditorium**—Miami bantamweight Jimmy Navarro posted his 15th knockout in a 20-1 record by disposing of Mexico's Mando Trevino in just 1:35 of a scheduled 10-rounder.

After being floored by Navarro, Trevino, who dipped to 15-5, got up but was in no condition to continue, and referee Juan Arias stopped the action.

Comebacking John Burney improved to 5-3 with a disqualification over Florida City's Morris Neal when referee Harry Brennan decided Neal hit the canvas from a non-existing body shot.

Featherweight Steve Wolin made his pro debut, stopping Jore Longonio of Mercedes, Texas in the second of a scheduled four. Longonio is 3-2.

Hialeah's Jose Guzman upped his record to 5-1, stopping Florida City's Paul Mingo in 1:54.

Middleweights Michael Sapp, Miami, and James Johnson, Key Largo, provided plenty of action, Sapp improving to 3-2-1 with a majority four-round decision as Johnson slipped to 5-2-1.

Edward "The Pit Bull" Pollard of Barbados upped his record to 11-2 by stopping West Palm Beach's Donald Brockington at 2:32 of the third. Brockington is a full contact Karate champion.

Welterweight Federico Mijares squared his record at 1-1 with a stoppage of Ft. Lauderdale's Salvadore Padilla at 1:45 of the second. Padilla is 0-2-1.

Promoters: Bebis August & Laura Bonnani.
Matchmaker: Julio Martinez.
Judges: Harry Berman, Mark Conn, John Rupert & Rick Beys.
Referees: Bill Connors, Harry Brennan & Juan Arias.
Announcer: Allan Toor.
Attendance: 400 (est.).
(12-4-87)

▶**CYPRESS SPRINGS—Orange Dome**—The headlining eight-rounder saw featherweight Amos Cowart take a decision over Darrin Neal.

Delphino Marin ended his scheduled six-round middleweight bout with Charles Rice by TKO in the third.

A scheduled four-round middleweight match ended quickly, Vince Hogan stopping Alex White in the first.

In a scheduled six-rounder, lightweight Troy Davis TKO'd Todd Mingo in two rounds.

Miami heavyweight Milton Bowen scored his sixth first-round KO in as many starts, pasting James Ruffin in a scheduled four.

Lightweight Joe Gamache scored a first-round TKO over Chris Godeauz in a scheduled four.

Promoter: Chuck Young.
Matchmaker: Chuck Cavello.
Attendance: 900.
(12-4-87)

▶**HOLLYWOOD**—Light heavyweight Vincent Boulware improved his record to 9-1 with 15 knockouts by winning a unanimous 10-round decision over Stacy McSwain.

Mark Shectner scored 98-90, Irv Abramson 97-91 and Al Wilensky 97-92.

McSwain fought in his normal aggressive style, losing a point in Round Nine for a butt. Earlier, McSwain, who fell to 23-11, took an eight count.

The victory put Boulware in line for a super middleweight title shot against WBA titleholder Chong-Pal Park of Korea.

Edward Pollard, the featherweight champion of Bar-

NORTH AMERICAN RATINGS
BY THE NORTH AMERICAN BOXING FEDERATION
(As of December, 1987)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Orlin Norris (California)
1. Michael Spinks (Pennsylvania)
2. Tim Witherspoon (Pennsylvania)
3. Razor Ruddock (Canada)
4. Reynaldo Snipes (Illinois)
5. Trevor Berbick (Florida)
6. Jose Ribalta (Florida)
7. James Douglas (Ohio)
8. Pinklon Thomas (Pennsylvania)
9. George Foreman (Texas)
10. Mike Williams (Texas)
11. Tyrell Biggs (Pennsylvania)
12. Wimpy Halstead (Oklahoma)
13. James Broad (New Jersey)
14. Henry Tillman (California)
15. Larry Alexander (Tennessee)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champion
Bert Cooper (Pennsylvania)
1. Michael Greer (Tennessee)
2. Spencer Chavis (Michigan)
3. Elijah Tillery (New York)
4. Tony Fulilangi (Arizona)
5. Alfonso Ratliff (Illinois)
6. Jesse Shelby (Texas)
7. Dwight Qawi (New Jersey)
8. Glen McCrory (Louisiana)
9. Olian Alexander (California)
10. Anthony Witherspoon (Pennsylvania)
11. Robert Daniels (Florida)
12. Andre McCall (Texas)
13. Seamus McDonough (New York)
14. Arthel Lawhorne (Michigan)
15. Lee Roy Murphy (Connecticut)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Tony Willis (Illinois)
1. Uriah Grant (Florida)
2. Jeff Thompson (Michigan)
3. Frank Minton (Indiana)
4. Bobby Czyz (New Jersey)
5. Don Lee (Texas)
6. Vincent Boulware (Texas)
7. Mustafa Hamsho (New York)
8. Willy Featherstone (Canada)
9. Ramzi Hassan (California)
10. Vaughn Hooks (Pennsylvania)
11. Mark Holmes (Pennsylvania)
12. Jeff Lampkin (Ohio)
13. Chris Reid (New Jersey)
14. Willie Edwards (Illinois)
15. Eddie Davis (Michigan)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Michael Nunn (California)
1. Marvin Hagler (Massachusetts)
2. Michael Olajide (Canada)
3. Iran Barkley (New York)
4. Mike McCallum (New York)
5. Kevin Watts (New Jersey)
6. Tony Thornton (New Jersey)
7. Mat Farrago (New York)
8. Larry Musgrove (California)
9. James Kinchen (California)
10. Tim Williams (California)
11. Sanderline Williams (Ohio)
12. Mark McPherson (New York)
13. Robbie Sims (Massachusetts)
14. Ricky Stackhouse (Georgia)
15. Lindell Holmes (Pennsylvania)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Milton McCrory (Michigan)
1. David Braxton (Michigan)
2. Duane Thomas (Michigan)
3. John Jackson (Pennsylvania)
4. Donald Curry (Texas)
5. Lupe Aquino (California)
6. Darrin Van Horn (Kentucky)
7. Steve Little (Pennsylvania)
8. Troy Darrell (New York)
9. Bryan Grant (Tennessee)
10. Buster Drayton (Pennsylvania)
11. Paul Thorne (Mississippi)
12. Royan Hammond (California)
13. Henry Cavesuela (California)
14. Louis Howard (Missouri)
15. Jack Callahan (Indiana)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Mark Breland (New York)
2. Luis Santana (California)
3. Shawn O'Sullivan (Canada)
4. Hugh Kearney (Pennsylvania)
5. Diomedes Colome (California)
6. Tyrone Trice (Michigan)
7. Derrick Kelley (California)
8. Simon Brown (Washington DC)
9. Maurice Blocker (Washington DC)
10. Horrace Shufford (Nevada)
11. Tommy Ayers (Ohio)
12. Felipe Canela (California)
13. Young Dick Tiger (California)
14. David Gutierrez (California)
15. Dewith Frazier (Canada)

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Harold Brazier (Indiana)
1. Buddy McGirt (New York)
2. Meldrick Taylor (Pennsylvania)
3. Ron Shields (Texas)
4. Cassius Clay Horne (Arizona)
5. John Meekins (New York)
6. Mauricio Rodriguez (Florida)
7. Harry Arroyo (Ohio)
8. Rene Arredondo (Mexico)
9. John Montes (California)
10. Othal Dixon (Texas)
11. Tony Martin (Pennsylvania)
12. Vincent Releford (Texas)
13. Yogi Buchanan (Missouri)
14. David Gonzales (Texas)
15. Rico Velasquez (California)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Nico Perez (Arizona)
1. Mario Miranda (Mexico)
2. Roger Arevalo (Mexico)
3. Lupe Miranda (Texas)
4. Tony Lopez (California)
5. Tyrone Jackson (New York)
6. Juan LaPorte (New York)
7. Keith Stevenson (Kentucky)
8. Jackie Beard (Michigan)
9. Pasqual Aranada (Texas)
10. Ken Baysmore (Washington DC)
11. Joey Medina (Arizona)
12. Oscar Bejinas (California)
13. Raphe Sims (Texas)
14. Refugio Rojas (Mexico)
15. Billy Young (Michigan)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Bernard Taylor (Tennessee)
1. Hector Lopez (California)
2. Lupe Suarewz (Texas)
3. George Navarro (New Jersey)
4. Marcos Villasana (Mexico)
5. Steve Cruz (Texas)
6. Joe Ruelas (California)
7. Jaime Garza (California)
8. Genaro Hernandez (California)
9. Tony Pep (Canada)
10. Jeff Franklin (Nevada)
11. Mauro Gutierrez (Mexico)
12. Lenny Valdez (Mexico)
13. Irvin Mitchell (California)
14. Javier Marquez (Mexico)
15. Mario Rodriguez (Mexico)

SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Daniel Zaragoza (Mexico)
1. Jesse Benavides (Texas)
2. Jorge Diaz (California)
3. Aaron Lopez (Texas)
4. Jose Sanabria (New York)
5. Louie Espinoza (Florida)
6. George Garcia (California)
7. James Pipps (Texas)
8. Carlos Zarate (Mexico)
9. Steve McCrory (Michigan)
10. Harold Petty (Texas)
11. Mario Gomez (Mexico)
12. Jesus Salud (Hawaii)
13. Darryl Thigpen (Missouri)
14. Saul Martinez (Mexico)
15. Gil Contreras (Texas)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Frankie Duarte (California)
1. Alberto Davila (California)
2. Hurley Snead (Michigan)
3. Raul Perez (Mexico)
4. Gilberto Roman (Mexico)
5. Adalberto Martinez (Mexico)
6. Louis Curtis (Washington DC)
7. Pepillo Valdez (Mexico)
8. Juan Estrada (Mexico)
9. Jimmy Navarro (Florida)
10. David Gauvin (Texas)
11. Eduardo Torres (Mexico)
12. Jimmy Fernandez (Mexico)
13. Greg Richardson (Oregon)
14. Ciro Cayetano (Mexico)
15. George Evans (Nevada)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Orlando Canizales (Texas)
1. Fernando Varguez (Mexico)
2. Javier Lucas (Mexico)
3. Paul Gonzales (California)
4. Mike Phelps (Texas)
5. Gilberto Sosa (Mexico)
6. Armando Velasco (Mexico)
7. Juan Herrera (Mexico)
8. Emilio Santos (Mexico)
9. Ricardo Lopez (Mexico)
10. Gilberto Villalogos (Mexico)
11. Marco Benitez (Mexico)
12. Fred Castillo (Mexico)
13. Art Ruiz (Mexico)
14. Javier Guerrero (Mexico)
15. Ricky Romero (California)

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Willy Salazar (Mexico)
1. German Torres (Mexico)
2. Isidro Perez (Mexico)
3. Humberto Gonzalez (Mexico)
4. Tony DeLuca (California)
5. Jorge Cano (Mexico)
6. Rodolfo Alvarado (Mexico)
7. Jose Zepeda (Mexico)
8. Santiago Mendez (Mexico)
9. Javier Varguez (Mexico)
10. Fran Montiel (Mexico)
11. Efren Pinto (Mexico)
12. Javier Alonso (Mexico)
13. Jose Diaz (Mexico)
14. Pedro Rabago (Mexico)
15. Memo Flores (Mexico)

bados, carried a 13-3 record into his scheduled eight-rounder with Daryl Pinckney, who was just 6-5-1. But Pinckney pulled a surprise, stopping Pollard in just 1:42.

A scheduled four also ended quickly when John Burney improved his record to 7-2 with a first-round stoppage of debuting Johnny Arnold. Arnold, from Ft. Myers, lasted only 1:12.

Not to spoil an evening of quick prelims, Hallendale middleweight Anthony Logan made his mark 12-0 with nine knockouts by stopping Alan Bison of Hallendale in 1:28 of a scheduled four.

Fighting with a separated shoulder from the second round, Leisure City's Ivan Gonzales stopped Hallendale's John Wesley in the seventh of a scheduled eight. Wesley had Gonzales in trouble several times but ran out of gas, forcing referee Juan Arias to step in. Gonzales is 14-1 with 10 KOs, while Wesley falls to 5-6.

Pittsburgh's Sal LaQuatra upped his log to 5-0-1 by knocking out Homestead's Joe Paul in just 1:12 of a scheduled six. LaQuatra's twin brother, Anthony, is an unbeaten bantam.

Promoter: Tiburon Sports Promotions, Inc./Laura Bonnani.

Attendance: 1,500.

Announcer: Allan Toor.

Referees: Harry Brennan, Juan Arias & Eddie Eckert.

Judges: Mark Conn, Mark Shectner, Irv Abramson & Al Wilensky.

(12-18-87)

LOUIS ZIPKIN

ILLINOIS

▶CHICAGO—DePaul University Alumni Hall—In a benefit for the rebuilding of Father George Clement's Church of the Holy Angels, former heavyweight titleholder Ernie Terrell returned to the promotional ranks with the help of Don "Only In America" King.

In an unusually entertaining finish to a long night of boxing, former Chicagoan Randy Smith, now living in Tucson, Arizona, returned to face former amateur nemesis "Dangerous" Don Lee, 164½, Detroit.

On the comeback trail, Lee won his second straight following his nationally televised loss to Michael Olajide, outhustling Smith to capture a unanimous 10-round verdict.

The less said concerning Craig Bodzianowski's second-round knockout of Al Houck, 220, Minneapolis, the better. Houck is an unskilled, out-of-shape six-round fighter who probably loses the morning battle with his dog over who gets the paper. The only thing a fight like this does is make Bodzianowski look bad.

Curtis Strong, 135, Chicago, won a six-rounder over Chicago's most popular opponent, Walter Cowans Jr., 138, Milwaukee. You can't join the Chicago Boxer's Union without a win over Cowans.

Chicago's most improved fighter, David Davis, 159, won his 14th in a row by decisioning rugged Willie Perry, 158, Springfield. Davis showed good hand speed, excellent combination punching and the ability to take a good shot and come right back. Davis, who is deaf and mute, is an extremely likeable fellow who has erased any questions I had about his ability with his last three wins over Jake Torrence, Sammy Matos and Perry.

William McDonald, 162, Chicago, raised his record to 3-0 with a four-round pasting of Ben Judah, 166, Chicago.

Returning from a long layoff, Gary Moore, 147, Chicago, upped his record to 8-0 with a unanimous four-round decision over Springfield warhorse Anthony "Joe" Travis, 143. Moore should remember to include the three judges on his Christmas list as he appeared unusually lethargic, loading up for the right hand and, in general, getting hurt and outhustled by Travis. It's a shame Travis, who has a record somewhere along the lines of 3-30, can't get the call when he does manage to win. Shame on the judges of this mess.

In the opening bout, Kevin Mulvey, 150½, Chicago, raised his record to 4-1-1 with a hard-fought, six-round unanimous decision over Jerry Cody, 153, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Mulvey was cut in the first round and, overall, seemed to have an off night. He was ineffectively aggressive and allowed Cody to counterpunch him far too much.

Mike Tyson, WBA, WBC and IBF heavyweight titleholder, engaged in a four-round exhibition with sparring partner James "Quick" Tillis. While this was a major attraction for the some 3,283 fans who paid their way in, I just couldn't get excited seeing Tyson with headgear and 16-ounce gloves fighting a guy who had given Chicago fight fans some very unmemorable moments in the ring.

(11-13-87)

▶**CHICAGO—Aragon Ballroom**—The Rodriguez brothers returned to the promotional ranks with a four-bout card that had no advertising, no press and no publicity until a week prior when an announcement was made at Terrell's benefit card.

Added to everything else, only one Chicago fighter, Benny "Pulga" Marquez, was on the card. Still, some 400 turned out.

In the main event, Abraham Martinez, 130, Mexico City, won a 10-round unanimous decision over the comebacking Marquez to capture the Illinois state junior lightweight title. How Sterling's Jeff Silva happened to lose the crown and how a fighter from Mexico managed to win it is beyond me. Marquez, as always, put up a great fight, but at 30 years of age and coming off a two-year layoff, the always hittable veteran is part of history, not the future.

Good-looking prospect Juan Carazo, 117, San Juan, Puerto Rico, captured a tough 10-round majority decision over journeyman Diego Avila, 116½, Mexico City. This was Carazo's third appearance in town and he has the potential to be a top fighter.

Orlando Fernandez, 123, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, won a 10-round majority decision over Javier Pichardo, 125, Mexico City.

In the opening 10-rounder, Angel Rosario, 117, Baymon, Puerto Rico, scored a second-round TKO over Monterey, Mexico's Jose Gallegos, 123. A veteran loser, the 29-year-old Gallegos was no match for the youngster.
(11-20-87)

▶**VILLA PARK—The Odeum**—Illinois state lightweight champion Louie Lomeli headlined this Battle Promotions/Cedric Kushner card with the first defense of his state crown in front of 650.

Lomeli, 134, Melrose Park, took on Herminio Morales, 135, Chicago, the No. 1 contender, and extended his undefeated sttreak to 18 straight with a six-round TKO. Morales, who suffered a broken jaw in the second round, was unable to answer the bell for the sixth, but put up a hell of a fight.

Morales dropped to 10-2 and Lomeli looks to upgrade his competition.

William "Crystal Kid" Clayton, 158½, Chicago, stunned David Davis, 158, Chicago, with a knockout at 2:42 of the opening round. Davis falls to 15-1, while Clayton moves up to 10-7. This was a major upset as Davis had shown steady improvement and Clayton had been consistently inconsistent. It was a big win for Clayton and, hopefully, a big lesson for Davis, who, at 23, should have no trouble rebounding.

Only three months ago, I applauded the Illinois State Commission for permanently retiring Milwaukee's Stan Johnson after a dreadful performance against Gene Dyker. But once again, in Lazarus-like fashion, Johnson suddenly gets cleared for landing (on the canvas) by the very same commission that retired him. Did the commission expect the 36-year-old Johnson to suddenly dedicate himself to the sport? Give me a break! This was bull, and the commission, the matchmaker and the promoters knew it. Dyker had pulled out of his proposed match with Bobby Hitz a few days before, but if Johnson was the best opponent they could get, scrub it. Don't subject people to pay money for this sham.

Kevin Mulvey, 148, Chicago, won a six-round majority decision over pro debutante Terrance Martin, 151, Chicago. Because he is so easily accessible with a gloved fist, Mulvey makes every fight exciting. But he's not going to last much longer if he keeps getting hammered. Martin acquitted himself quite well in his debut.

One of Chicago's top prospects, Ezequiel Olague, 129, won his second straight with a two-round stoppage of Joseph Kirkland, 131, Chicago, in a scheduled four. Kirkland is a tough kid who battled Olague throughout, but he was finally worn down by Olague's devastating left hooks to the body.

In a hotly contested affair, Tim Martin, 173, Chicago, won a four-round unanimous decision over Terry Jackson, 180, Milwaukee, to even his record at 2-2.

In a dreadfully dull opener, Karriem Bey, 154, Chicago, made his record 2-0 with a disqualification over Charles "Ghetto Bomber" O'Neal, 160, Chicago. O'Neal held throughout even though he lost a point in the third round.
(11-27-87)

JEFF CARLSON

IOWA

▶**DAVENPORT—Col Ballroom**—Former IBF junior middleweight kingpin Buster Drayton of Philadelphia returned to action for the first time since losing his title to Matthew Hilton, picking up some Christmas money with a four-round stoppage of Tulsa, Oklahoma's LeRoy Jones. The match was scheduled for eight rounds.

Another scheduled eight saw the ever-busy Harold Brazier, South Bend, Indiana, polish off Birmingham, Alabama's Raymond Sparks in the second, welterweights.

A heavyweight 10-rounder had LeClaire's Frank "Gator" Lux win by decision over Rick "King Kong" Keller of Council Bluffs.

A six-round light heavyweight match ended at midpoint when Moline's Lonnie Horn stopped Rich Green, Indianapolis, in the third.

A six-round welterweight bout went the distance, Omaha's Felix Dubray winning by decision over Dave Reynolds of Indianapolis.

Moline welterweight Efrain Ramos decisioned Billy Doyle, Sioux Falls, in a four-rounder.

Promoters: Dave Rogers & Steve O'Neill.
Referees: Sam Humble & Pete Podgorsky.
Judges: Wando Valdez & Morris Wilson.
Matchmaker: Pete Susens.
Physician: John Johnson.
Announcer: Bill Cunningham.
(12-5-87)

KENTUCKY

▶**LOUISVILLE—Fern Valley Holiday Inn**—Two six-rounders headed this five-bout card, Louisville's Bradley Williams, 141, stopping Owensboro, Kentucky's Max Barnes, 142, in the fourth to highlight the action.

Barnes failed to answer the bell for the fifth.

Tim Tipton, 144, Shepherdsville, posted a unanimous decision over Omaha's Wayne Evans, 143, in the other six, Tipton taking two cards 60-52, while the third judge carded 60-54.

Three four-rounders filled the card.

Louisville's Eric Whitfield, 128, stopped Javier Mendoza, Mexico City, 128, in the third of a good bout.

Louisville's Mickey Eskridge, 134, took a unanimous decision over Des Moines, Iowa's Al Bell, 143, in another good matchup.

Gary Steiger, 187, Louisville, scored a quick win when Owensboro's Lawrence Taylor, 190, failed to answer the bell for the second round.

Promoter: Eskridge Enterprises.
Referee: Dixon.
Judges: Childers, Floyd & Kempf.
Announcer: Tong.
Timekeeper: Peyton.
Physician: Greathouse.
(11-30-87)

LOUISIANA

▶**METAIRIE—Landmark Hotel**—Dominic "The Male Stripper" Carter was fighting his first 10-round main event, but Carter went just half the distance.

Extending his record to 10-0, Carter, fighting in his home town, dominated his light heavyweight match with Wichita's Ron Malek, stopping the visitor early in the fifth round.

Carter hurt Malek with left hooks as early as the second round and pummeled him in the fourth, nearly closing his left eye. Malek went down quickly as the fifth began and referee Lucien Joubert stepped in and saved the Kansan, who fell to a reported 15-10-1, further punishment.

"I caught him with a right hand on the button," Carter told Mario Cruz of *The Times-Picayune*. "I had him hurt in the second round. I hit him with everything I wanted to. He was a little slow."

The undercard was abbreviated when the eight-rounder between light heavyweights Fouad Zeton of Syria and Joe McKnight of New Orleans was cancelled when Zeton showed up overweight.

Still, the remainder of the show produced good action, St. Bernard's Giovanni Vaccarrella improving his record to 5-2 by flattening Alvin Joseph of New Orleans with a first-round right hand. Joseph fell to 1-2 after the lightweight blowout.

Wichita heavyweight Greg "The Gorilla" Gerrell had better luck than his stablemate Malek, winning a four-round slugfest with Marrero's Charlie Dixon. Gerrell, who absorbed everything Dixon had to offer, remained unbeaten at 6-0, while Dixon slipped to 11-4-1.

Welterweight Billy Fleetwood, St. Bernard, pushed his log to 8-0 with a third-round knockout over Tony Jeans of Memphis. Jeans dropped to 8-8-1.

New Orleans welterweight Ricky Randall handed Mobile, Alabama's James Hughes his first loss in five starts, winning a split, four-round decision. Randall is 9-6.

Promoter: Jack Gurry.
Matchmaker: Sam Kleindorf.
(11-24-87)

MARYLAND

▶**GLEN BURNIE—La Fontaine Bleu**—Yet another successful promotion for this dinner/boxing venue, and big plans for 1988. Also envisioning big plans for next year is Eugene Speed. With the addition of Sugar Ray Leonard to his corner, the career of this Palmer Park, Md., featherweight is just beginning to accelerate.

As part of a co-main event, Speed, 127, made short work of Antonio Garrison, 126, Charlotte, NC, thus boosting his record to 8-0. Garrison was no match for the much quicker and stronger Speed. He was knocked through the ropes in the first and put down again in the second with a barrage of punches climaxed by a straight right hand. It was here that referee Tom Moore stopped the bout and awarded Speed a TKO win at 1:47 of Round Two in this scheduled eight.

After the fight, Speed said, "Even Tyson would have went down after that right." Seriously, Speed's trainer sees him improving with each fight, and "stepping better and throwing more combinations."

In the other scheduled eight, Victor Davis, 147, Wash., DC, won by TKO at 2:06 of Round Six over Marvin McDowell, 147, Baltimore. Winning all the rounds with the possible exception of the first, Davis was throwing all the leather, while McDowell was offering no defense; virtually out on his feet in the fourth and fifth. Ref; Frank Kelly.

The undercard featured hometown crowd favorite Chuckie Sturm, 136, winning a six-round unanimous decision over Donnie Parker, 136, Baltimore. Parker's clowning at times seemed to frustrate Sturm, who possesses a more straight up conventional style. Sturm brought the crowd to its feet in the sixth when he returned with some of his own dancing, even sticking out his chin to Parker. Ref; Ray Klingmeyer.

Antonio DeBarros, 136, DC, via Cape Verde Islands, took a six-round unanimous decision over Jose LaBorde, 135, also Washington. The slick boxing moves of DeBarros and the unimaginative approach of LaBorde did not make for a pleasing bout. DeBarros had little sting behind his punches and LaBorde could not penetrate. Ref; Milton Greene.

Troy Watson, 165, Baltimore, proved too strong for Dwight Hunter, also 165, of Charlotte, NC, and won

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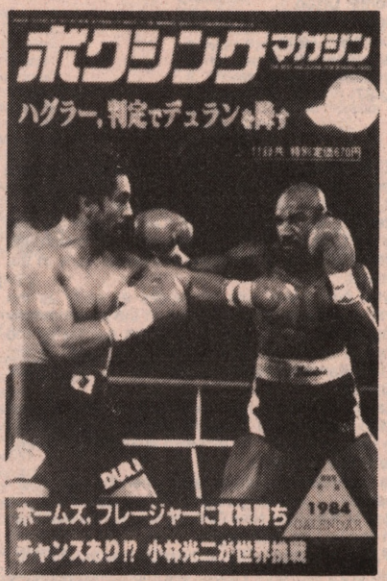

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this scheduled six when ref Larry Barrett stopped it at 2:32 of the fourth. Though there were no knockdowns, an unanswered series of straight rights forced the stoppage.

Timekeeper: Harry Cecchini.

Judges: All five referees shared the duties on a rotating basis.

Promoter: Maryland Showcase (Max Kisner).

Attendance: 1,100 (est.) 960 (paid).

(12-17-87)

FRED BLUMSTEIN

MICHIGAN

▶**STERLING HEIGHTS—Premier Center**—Johnny "Ace" Smith and Duke Durden hosted the WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight championship, pitting local Olympic gold medalist Steve "Bluesman" McCrory in a defense against Tony Montoya in the headliner of a seven-bout card before 1,879 appreciated fans.

Montoya, 17-5, came in at 122, identical to McCrory's weight, and proved he had heart, stamina and perserverance, but it was not enough as McCrory displayed surgical skill in dismembering the wild, albeit persistent attack of the Arizonan. McCrory had the outclassed fighter down twice prior to the knockout that came at 2:31 of the seventh stanza from a crushing left uppercut that literally dropped the spunky Montoya like a ton of bricks. There was no getting up and veteran referee Sam Williams tolled the count.

McCrory's arsenal was in full bloom. His right hand tatooed Montoya's left temple enough to stun him to his knees twice. Not losing his cool, McCrory let Montoya swarm and flail, then used effective counterpunching that confused Montoya.

In the opener, Rick Jester, 173, moved his record to 18-5 by taking out Arthur Pruitt, 174, Memphis, at 2:28 of the second when ref Marv McDonald stepped in to stop the carnage. Pruitt is 8-7.

In his pro debut, John "The Paratrooper" Hanson of Dearborn Heights outpointed Joseph Conrad, also in his debut, in their welterweight four-rounder. Both were willing to mix, but Hanson was the aggressor against his opponent from New Orleans.

Once again referee McDonald had to assess injuries and wounds in quick fashion as welterweight Dwayne "007" Peterson upped his tally to 5-1 with a TKO at just 1:45 of the first when Jerome Spotsville, New Orleans, suffered a cut right eye. Spotsville is 5-6-2.

Another badly cut eye almost jeopardized light heavyweight Vince "Blue Thunder" Hopper's ability to last out a majority draw with Louisville's Mike Peak. Hopper dominated the first, but suffered a split right eyebrow that forced him to stay busy and aggressive against the 4-1-2 Peak.

McDonald was thrust into another bloodbath as Texan Mickey Pryor (14-7-1) and fellow heavyweight Kevin Casimier (7-2) drenched the canvas in only 2:34 of the first. Casimier inflicted three gashes on the hapless Pryor in this bloodbath.

Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson remained unbeaten (9-0), demonstrating classic boxing style and finesse in winning by unanimous decision over Kenny Cole, who fell to 5-3. Johnson is poised for bigger and better matchups and is looking to progress from eight-round status to feature-bout status.

Promoter: ABC Promotions.

(11-17-87)

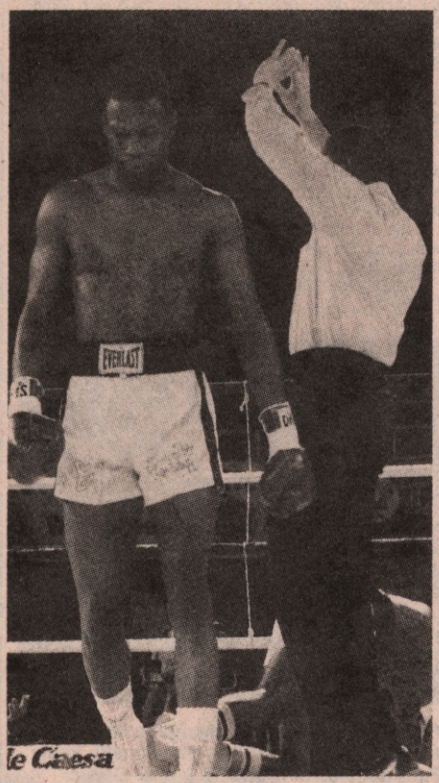
▶**DETROIT—Cobo Arena**—Welterweight Tyrone Trice, now boxing out of New York City, sent his record to 26-1 with a decisive pounding of Mike English, 15-7.

The mismatch saw the South Carolinian down three times before 1:30 had elapsed, Trice winning by TKO at 1:49.

Taking a fight on short notice can be dangerous to your health as Milwaukee's Efrain Nieves discovered. Nieves dropped to 20-8 when Detroit welterweight Anthony Jones was awarded a TKO at 2:34 of the second. Jones swelled his record to 14-0-1 with vicious combinations that were all the more interesting since both came out as southpaws. Nieves started the second in the orthodox stance, but after tasting a right jab and left hook he seemed to lose all sense of his fight plan and was overwhelmed.

One of the best offerings on the card had Detroit's Cortez Brown (9-4-2) win a unanimous six-round decision over Benton Harbor welterweight Roosevelt Brown. Two scores read 58-56, the third, 58-57.

Detroit welterweight Darren Morris won by TKO at 1:14 of the first round when Benton Harbor's Terry Parham (5-6) was gashed over the left eye.



Welterweight contender Tyrone Trice walks away from Mike English after scoring three first-round knockdowns for an automatic TKO victory in Detroit.

Heavyweight Alex Stewart improved to 7-0 with another quick finish as Ernie Poole (1-2) was stopped in just 2:16.

Lightweights Kenny Washington and Windsor, Ontario's Brad Jeffries banged away for 1:25 until Jeffries' use of combinations and left hooks dropped Washington to 0-3 by TKO. Jeffries improved to 5-1.

Promoter: Tom Vaca.

(11-20-87)

▶**SAGINAW—Saginaw Civic Arena**—Art Dore continues to present mid-Michigan with boxing programs based in the City by the Bay (Saginaw, not San Francisco) featuring his protege Billy Young.

Young upped his record to 20-0-1 and took the Michigan lightweight championship with a unanimous 10-round decision over Sebastian Wilburn of Benton Harbor, the only man to blemish his record.

Dore veteran Al Laddie (5-4-1) won a six-round decision over Ron Lewis (2-6) in a middleweight match.

Stablemate Lon Leibeigrin followed suit by defeating Ontario's Robbie Robinson (4-4) in a heavyweight match.

Another Dore prospect, heavyweight George McFall, who fights under the nom du guerre of John L. Sullivan III, made his pro debut by knocking out debuting Greg Ahrens in the first round. Ahrens had to be carried out of the ring.

In a comeback, welterweight Glen Smith of Bay City took David Taylor, Atlanta, Georgia, to the eight-round limit to win a unanimous decision. Smith is 18-3, Taylor, 10-8.

Heavyweight Tim Ryerson TKO'd Tom Jabonski in three.

In the opener, Brad Jeffries one-timed Carl Hines with a tremendous left hook that KO'd the 135-pounder at 1:17 of the first. Jeffries is 7-1, with Hines a reported 4-3.

Promoter: Art Dore Enterprises.

Matchmaker: Lindy Lindell.

(12-4-87)

TOM PARUSKIEWICZ

NEBRASKA

▶**OMAHA**—After too long an absence, prize fighting returned locally headlined by Omaha's prime Grade-A beef, Dan Murphy.

The packed house saw the local heavyweight score a seventh-round TKO over Jimmy Stevens of Indianapolis.

The rangy, blond Murphy was down in the first and found a difficult target in Stevens, whose retreating style sometimes frustrated Dan. Irish Dan appeared rusty and missed often enough. However, he eventually settled down to hand Stevens a knockdown via the body. Stevens beat the count, but the referee decided the import had had enough for the night.

Murphy's record is a reported 16-1-1.

In semifinal action, Omaha heavy Dickie "The Raging Bull" Ryan hammered out a hard-fought points verdict over scrappy Andre Brooks, Oklahoma City, after six rounds. Ryan, who lifted his record to 5-0, staggered his foe at least twice but didn't have the tools to put him away. However, he is a hard worker with the spirit to win and may yet develop into something.

Felix "The Cat" Dubray, Omaha, edged veteran Ray Menefee, Lincoln, in a fast-paced welterweight six.

Light heavyweight Ken Schafer, former city Golden Gloves champ, turned pro by halting Ron Brown, Fargo, North Dakota. via a third-round TKO.

Lincoln's crack 175-pounder, Doug Kaluza, battered Dean Riddle, Miami, Oklahoma, with a second-round TKO.

In the concluding bout of the evening, a six-round welterweight pairing, two old pros clashed for the best-skilled match of the card as Wayne Grant, Omaha, squeezed out a narrow points win over always tough Nicky Miller, Omaha.

Promoter: F & F Berns Promotions.

Matchmaker: Bruce Strauss.

Announcer: Bill Cunningham.

Attendance: 2,037

(11-25-87)

ROBERT J. RUIZ

NEVADA

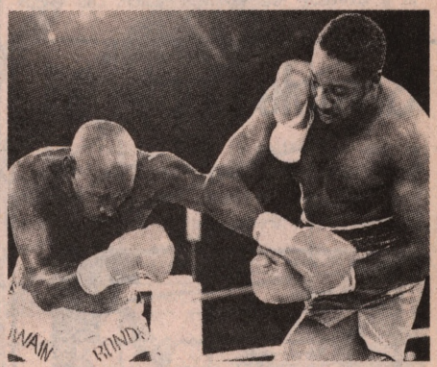


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Veteran Dwain Bonds (left) pulled a minor upset, stopping skid-skidding Henry Tillman for an eight-round TKO in Las Vegas.

▶**LAS VEGAS—Showboat Hotel/Casino**—Aging journeyman Dwain Bonds fashioned a heavyweight upset of national significance as the Showboat returned to boxing after a four-month hiatus.

Henry Tillman, who came in at 226½, learned big isn't always better as he sat hulking on his stool unable to come out for the eighth round as Bonds, 220½, was credited with a knockout.

Tillman, Los Angeles, never got untracked, and that says it all. Normally at his best weighing around 206, Tillman was unable to stick and move as in the past. Bonds, transplanted from Detroit to Los Angeles, registered the seventh KO in his reported 14-12-1 record.

The two-time amateur conqueror of Mike Tyson also blew a possible big money shot as Bill Cayton, who shares Tyson's management with Jim Jacobs, was in the audience along with Kevin Rooney, Tyson's trainer.

A crowd of 1,500 knew the 26-year-old 1984 Olympic heavyweight champion was in for a long night when the 32-year-old Bonds knocked him through the ropes with a right uppercut. It was the first time Henry had been on the deck since Evander Holyfield knocked him down three times in their WBA junior heavyweight title fight.

READ THE RING

Bonds opened the second with another big right, wobbled Tillman with another, and knocked him into the ropes with a third. Tillman had a cut on the bridge of his nose by the third round and even fell on his face after missing a wild right. Bonds had the "right stuff" again early in the seventh, dropping Tillman in the first 30 seconds with a left jab, right to the jaw that had Tillman taking referee Davey Pearl's count on his right knee. Tillman, who had won three straight since the Holyfield bout, fell for the second time when missing a right early in the eighth. Before the round was over, Bonds hurt him with a left and a combination to the body.

Dr. Flip Homasky checked the tiring Tillman before the ninth round and, moments later, trainer Joey Fariello told Pearl the scheduled 10-round bout was over.

"Henry just couldn't win it, so there was no sense in him getting hurt," said the conditioner, who also handles Mark Breland. "I think it's just a matter of a fighter who doesn't have it anymore. Tillman just didn't fight a proper fight. He had nothing out there."

Fariello admitted he "didn't think Tillman would have any problem with Bonds," whose previous claim to limited fame was a first-round knockout of former WBC cruiserweight king S.T. Gordon.

"When you look so bad against an ordinary opponent like Bonds, I don't see any room for improvement," said Fariello. "Henry trained well for the fight, and he looked very good. When an athlete goes, sometimes it happens all at once."

While Fariello hinted Tillman might consider another line of employment, the southern Californian didn't agree.

"Sure I was hurt, but I wanted to continue, I wanted to keep going," a stunned Tillman advised. "I don't know what happened. I just blew it. Bonds was a little awkward to fight. He kept ducking under my punches. I didn't use my jab enough. Fariello was getting on me because I wasn't jabbing enough and just slugging."

Bonds was elated over his victory, saying, "I knew it was going to be my fight in the fourth round. Still, I didn't want to burn myself out. I knew if I just kept landing punches, I would eventually stop him.

"I'm a spoiler," he added. "I had watched a lot of Tillman fight films. I said to myself, 'This is a gold medal champion, and I had to beat him."

In a six-round featherweight match, Las Vegas' Akeem Anifowoshe, 115, had too much power and speed for willing Beto Almaguer, 118, El Paso, scoring a TKO at 2:23 of the second round. Anifowoshe, formerly of Nigeria, used the opening round for inspection, sticking and moving effectively with combinations. In the second, he dropped his foe with a six-punch combo. Rising at the count of eight, the game Texan ran into a storm of leather, prompting Pearl to end the evening at 2:23. Anifowoshe is 7-0, while Almaguer fell to 5-3-1.

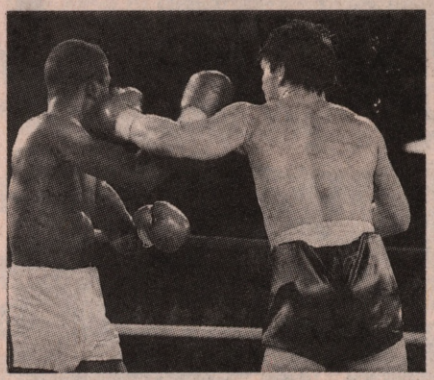
Harpel Talhan, 134, a Pakistan native living in Las Vegas, recovered from a first-round knockdown to win a split, six-round decision over Leonard Washington, 133, Las Vegas. Talhan is 8-0, Washington, 5-3-1.

Terry Sveen, 173, Las Vegas, bounced back from a first-round knockdown to fashion a six-round split decision over Las Vegas' Tim Davis, 174. Sveen, from Norway, is 2-0, Davis 2-1.

John Turnstall, 160, Las Vegas, made his pro debut with a hard-fought, four-round decision over Allen Dismuke, 161½, San Jose. The latter is 2-1.

Matchmaker: Mel Greb.
(11-20-87)

PHOTO BY FRANK VALERI



Former IBF lightweight champion Greg Haugen tuned up for his rematch with Vinny Paz with a sixth-round TKO over Derrick McGuire. Haugen is seen here landing the sort of left hook he hopes will enable him to regain the IBF lightweight belt against Pazienza.

▶**LAS VEGAS—Showboat Hotel-Casino**—Greg Haugen wound up giving George Chemaris a double present before fighter and trainer returned to their native Northwest to celebrate the Christmas holidays.

And the timing couldn't have been improved on.

Chemaris, based in Seattle, recorded his 73rd birthday as he renewed an association with his former pupil in a 10-round main event. Chemaris, with more than a half-century in boxing behind him, had only one serious request before the first bell: "Get this guy out of there as soon as you can."

"This guy" was elongated Derrick McGuire, an unranked import from Ann Arbor, Michigan, who could have spoiled Haugen's big money ($140,000) day with Vinny Pazienza February 6 in Atlantic City for the IBF 135-pound title.

Haugen had been idle since June 6 when he lost the IBF diadem to Pazienza in a controversial 15-round decision, and it showed in the early rounds. Yet by Round Four, Haugen assumed control with solid jabs and wicked body shots. With a partisan crowd of 1,614 roaring approval, Haugen walked through McGuire in the sixth round with salvos of five and six unanswered punches.

Though wobbled, McGuire never went down, but referee Richard Steele abbreviated the action at 1:54 of the sixth. The Michigander recovered on his stool at mid-ring, taking several minutes before he was able to return to his corner.

Haugen, 138½, who moved to Las Vegas from Auburn, Washington, two years ago, improved his record to 20-1-1 with 10 knockouts. The $5,000 purse for Haugen was little more than token pin money, but he needed the victory to protect his date with Pazienza.

Both Haugen and Chemaris agreed the six-month layoff affected Haugen's performance against an opponent whose record fell to 13-6 with six KOs.

"Greg gave me a very nice birthday present," said Chemaris. "I didn't want to cram a lot of stuff in his head in such a short time we've been back together. The rust showed in the beginning, but after the third round Haugen took charge."

Haugen said, "I'd like to fight at least once a month if the tax situation would let me. I know I didn't look great the first two rounds. Then, I started hitting McGuire with body shots. Anytime I wanted to hit him with a left hook, I could.

"McGuire was in the fight the first couple of rounds," added Haugen. "I was never hurt, but he caught me with an overhand right that got my attention. As for Pazienza, I have no negative thoughts about that fight. I want my belt back and when it comes to Vinny, it will be take no prisoners."

McGuire, who has lost five of his last six, didn't belittle Haugen's sting, admitting, "Haugen's definitely a big puncher. He's a very strong fighter, very aggressive. I think he's got a good chance to get his title back. He's a good fighter."

Haugen explained his switch in trainers from Stan Tischler, who took him to the December 5, 1986 title shot against Jimmy Paul.

"I felt there was need for a change," said Haugen. "I was with Stanley for two years and I learned one thing. With George, I learn something new every day. I found out there are a lot of trainers, but not very many teachers. What I needed was a teacher."

Prior to stopping McGuire, Haugen's last five bouts had gone the distance.

"I wanted to prove to the media I was more than a mauler and a brawler," said Haugen. "I think I've done that. I outboxed Jimmy Paul who, at the time, was supposed to be the best boxer in the division. I have nothing left to prove other than to myself that I can get my title back."

Quincy Taylor, 156, from the Sugar Ray Leonard stable out of Dallas, Texas, lifted his record to 7-0 when he stopped Akron, Ohio's Joe Walker, 152, at 2:40 of the second round of a scheduled six. Walker is 14-1-1.

Robert Byrd, 131, another Leonard protege from Dallas, improved to 12-0 with a unanimous six-round decision over Armando Dominguez, 133¼, Phoenix, who dipped to 6-4.

Harpel Talhan, 135, Las Vegas, moved to 9-0 with a TKO victory over Leonard Washington, 135½, Las Vegas, who couldn't answer the bell for the sixth round. Washington drops to 5-4-2.

Scot Sharp, 157, Phoenix, scored a second-round knockdown to win a torrid, four-round split decision over John Turnstall, 160, Las Vegas.

Promoter: Showboat Hotel-Casino.

Matchmaker: Mel Greb.
(12-16-87)

▶**LAS VEGAS—Bally's Hotel-Casino**—Few people in boxing shed anonymity faster than Orlin Norris.

One year ago, Orlin was simply a hopeful heavyweight from San Diego, unranked and virtually unknown beyond southern California. Today, he owns a national title and must cope with the prospect of being rushed into deep water—at least if Top Rank's Bob Arum has his way. Even before the 22-year-old short-armed banger took Larry Alexander's NABF laurels, Arum was up in the stratosphere unrealistically thinking about the winner earning a shot at Michael Spinks.

Preposterous should be the public's reaction, not so much that Norris, 15-1 with eight KOs, would be taking a giant step up in class, but for the realization that Arum wouldn't be willing to put up the kind of money Spinks would demand for returning to Las Vegas and still make a profit. The Las Vegas-based promoter is operating on the theory that the "exiled" world heavyweight champion needs some ring activity while waiting for Mike Tyson's connections to agree on a showdown, hopefully this year. It is assumed Butch Lewis, Spinks' promoter/adviser would demand a minimum $500,000 to let his undefeated warrior from Wilmington, Delaware mix with a promising, but still developing talent such as Norris. Norris can afford to come in for a tad more than the $7,500 he earned taking a majority 12-round decision over the veteran Alexander Thanksgiving eve. However, Norris, standing 5-10½, cannot afford to fall into a potential mismatch against the 6-1 Spinks, one of the few consummate boxers active today.

Arum also was talking about Norris defending his title against George Foreman, the former world champion who attracted 2,700 to Bally's just before Christmas when he stopped Rocky Sekorski in three rounds. Again, Norris would be the little guy who would have to lunge even further to reach the 6-3 Foreman. Norris could pay a big price since the former champion still shows flashes of devastating power, even at age 39.

The idea of fighting Spinks left the soft-spoken Norris confident.

"Spinks is a good fighter and awkward, but I'd beat him with my speed," Norris predicted. "That's what I'd use to conquer 'The Jinx.' He won't be able to hit me like he did those big guys like Gerry Cooney and Larry Holmes. And be sure, I'll be hitting him. I don't think I'd

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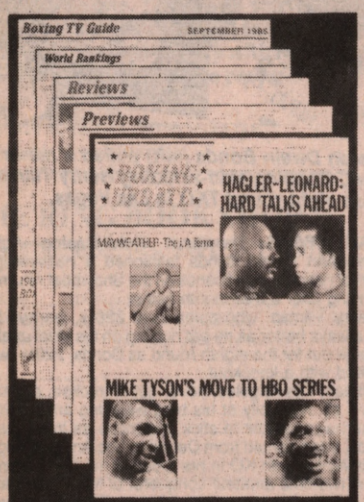

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have any trouble with Spinks."

Norris was able to use his patented leaping style to run up early points against Alexander, but he tired visibly in the stretch run.

"I did tire in the late rounds, but Alexander was just as tired as me, and he's been in with several champions," said the Lubbock, Texas native. "I was never frustrated in there. I would listen to my corner and put out what they asked me to. He was waiting and letting me get off first in a lot of rounds.

"Alexander's size and weight (Alexander weighed 222 to Norris' 206) wore me down a little, but considering his experience (32-11-2), I felt I turned in a good effort. On a scale of 10, I'd say it was at least an eight."

Arum, rating Norris' performance, said, "I thought Orlin fought very well considering who he was in with . . . a guy who hadn't lost in four years and fought names like Greg Page, Renaldo Snipes and James Broad. Alexander was fighting 10-rounders three years before Norris turned pro."

Norris followed a fight plan, even if it wasn't the most artistic offering.

"I thought about the fight laying in my bed," said Norris. "I was thinking Alexander is 11 years older than me, so if I work to the body I'll take his legs away. He hurt me with some pretty good low blows that he got away with. My body blows worked and his low blows worked, but my mind won out."

In a bout devoid of knockdowns, the official judging saw Dave Moretti and Dalby Shirley tab it 116-112 and 115-113, respectively for Norris. Cindi Barton called it 114-114. *The Ring*'s scorecard was 116-113, Norris.

With Angelo Dundee taking over Alexander's career 30 months ago, the New Yorker won the vacant NABF crown last April 10 when he stopped Dorcey Gaymon in seven rounds in Jacksonville, Florida.

"I thought Norris stole a lot of rounds, but you have to give him a lot of credit for what he did," said Dundee. "Norris was smart and did a lot of holding. If you look at aggressiveness, my guy was the winner. If you're looking at who was the cutest, you give it to the other guy."

Alexander had no excuses, saying, "Norris' lunging style wasn't a problem for me. He never hurt me. I was maintaining, keeping it close. I figured I'd put the pressure on in the late rounds, but maybe I waited too long. Norris fought me on the inside, but I was more effective on the outside."

It was a hard-luck night for Orlin's brother, Terry, 152. In furious first-round action, Norris and Joe Walker, 153, Akron, Ohio, took turns rocking each other until the San Diego boxer took charge at mid-ring. Norris dropped Walker with a combination to the head. The latter was stretched face down on the canvas, trying to rise, when Terry struck him with a rabbit punch. Referee Joey Curtis immediately disqualified Norris, who suffered his second defeat after 13 victories. Walker, in his local debut, moved to 14-0-1 with three KOs.

Engels Pedroza, 141, Los Angeles, continued as the KO sensation of the west when he made Mario Rodriguez, 141½, Yakima, Washington, his 15th victim on a perfect slate. Pedroza found an opponent who would stand and punch with him in the first round. Rodriguez managed to stick and move successfully through much of the opening round, but the Venezuelan import caught him late in the round with two lefts and a right. Rodriguez was down near the ropes, but the bell halted Curtis' count. Pedroza came out bombing in the second round, dropping Rodriguez with two left-right combinations. Up at Curtis' count of eight, Rodriguez tried to fight back from another combination, but Pedroza drove home double lefts and rights, leaving Rodriguez on his side. Curtis immediately halted action at 1:18 as Rodriguez' ledger dipped to 21-8 with 14 KOs.

Karama Leota, 161, Salt Lake City, Utah, rebounded from a first-round knockdown to level Jon Michael Roy, 162, San Bernardo, California, on a TKO at 3:02 of the third of a scheduled six-rounder. Leota is 6-1, four KOs, Roy, 7-6-1, five KOs.

Don Coats, 242, moved to 3-1 with two KOs when he halted Veti Katoa, 217, Salt Lake City, at 48 seconds of the third round in a slated four-rounder.

Burton Brett Hughes, 210, Phoenix, made his pro debut with a 36-second first-round KO over George Venerosa, 216, Las Vegas, the latter dropping to 1-1. (11-25-87)

JACK WELSH

▶**RENO—Eldorado Hotel-Casino**—Reno welterweight Jesse Lopez Jr. suffered his first loss in 19 starts when he was decked twice in the second round and stopped by Martin Quiroz.

Quiroz floored Lopez with an overhand right, then dropped the still-dazed local again before referee Jay Naday stopped the bout.

Lopez is 18-1, while Quiroz, of San Jose, California, improves to 37-6-4 with 27 knockouts.

Willie Montana, Reno, scored a unanimous eight-round decision over Vince Dunfee, Butte, Montana, in a welterweight bout.

Lightweight Tim Mosely, Mobile, Alabama, won a six-round decision over Armando Dominguez, Phoenix, Arizona.

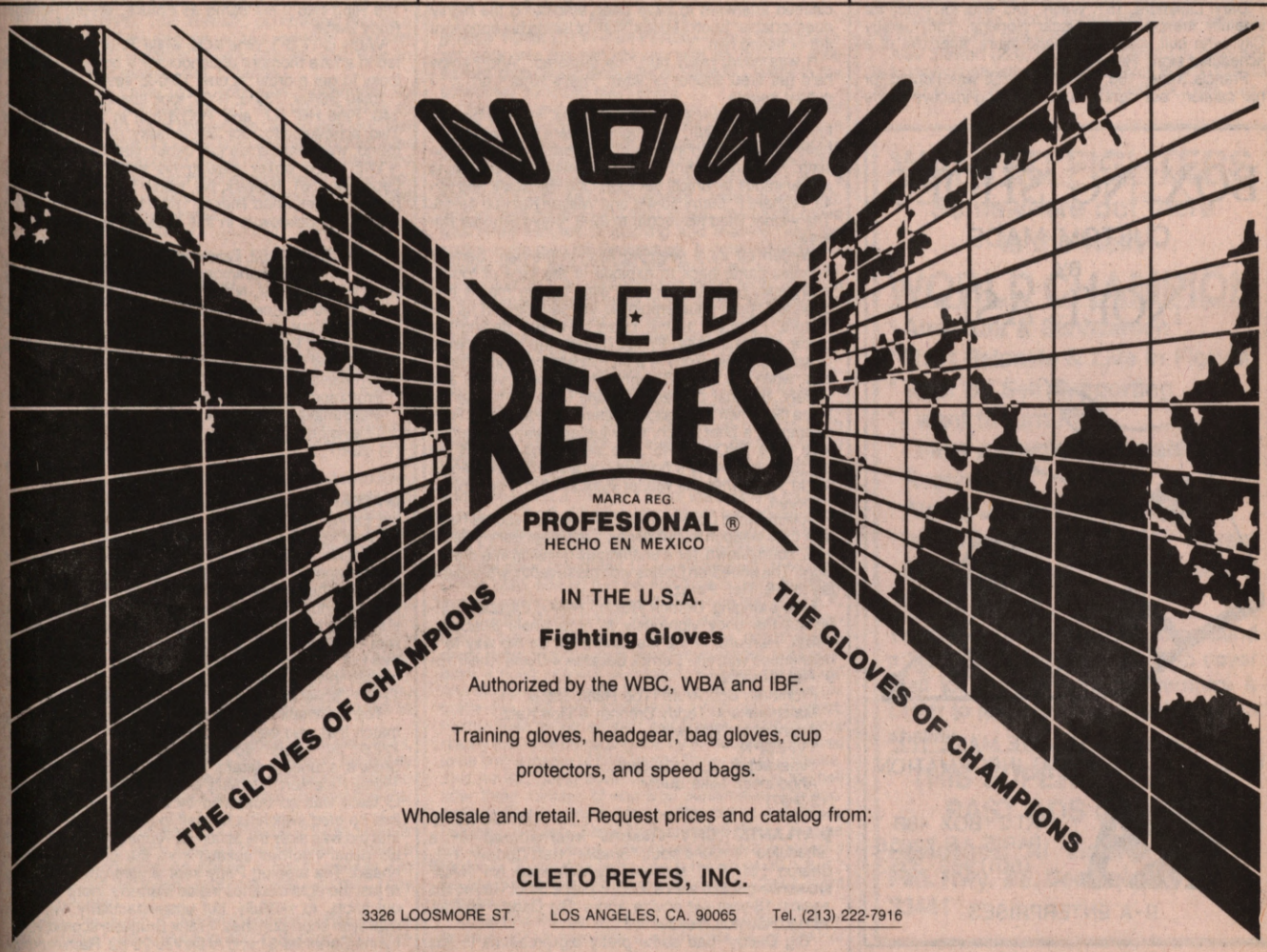
Reno welterweight Luis Silva took a four-round verdict from Reno's Aisia Loumoli.

Oakland, California welter Virgil Green took a four-round decision over LeRoy Rivera of Phoenix.

Attendance: 525.
(11-20-87)

NEW JERSEY

▶**ATLANTIC CITY—Sands Hotel Casino**—Just when it appeared this had settled into a two-promoter town, a new group decided to try for the casino-cable brass ring. It got off to a rocky start, with some disorganization problems, a rival card in town the same night, and bouts



that, while promising on paper, lost something in translation.

The main-event 12 was about as solid a matchup as could be asked for. Former NABF bantam and USBA super bantam champ Greg Richardson attempted to regain the vacant latter crown against unbeaten Jesse Benavides, whose 20 pro wins come on the heels of solid-gold amateur credentials. The 21-2 Richardson had vacated the title when he challenged for Jeff Fenech's world crown.

"I'll see what he has, then adjust to that particular style," Benavides had said of his pre-fight plans. It was no idle boast. Tony Ayala Sr.'s charge appeared to be in over his head while having a miserable first. He was tormented on the end of Richardson's long jab and visited the canvas following a left hook, though ref Vinnie Rainone ruled it a slip. But in the second, Benavides, 122, Corpus Christi, had Richardson, 122, Youngstown, figured out and put on a notable performance of what it's all about from there on. The short, southpaw Texan was able to draw the jab, slip inside and snap a right over Greg's extended arm, then whip it under into an uppercut to straighten Richardson up into the left cross. Greg was effective only sporadically when he could get a little room, but that was largely up to Jesse. The Texan mixed to head and body well as the bout was hard-fought and left both tiring. But the contrast in styles and builds made for a lot of mauling and sloppiness that detracted from the expected quality. The close, split scoring for Benavides reflected this contradiction. "Rocky" Castellani was way out of line at 114-113 Richardson, while Lynne Carter and Frank Brunette were too close at 115-113 and 116-114, respectively, in dealing Greg his third loss.

Ismael Negron, 160, NYC, belted out Charles Allen, 160, Corpus Christi, with surprising ease at 1:29 of the second of eight. The veteran Allen looked like a shot fighter who can no longer withstand punishment as he visited the floor twice before ref Frank Cappuccino stopped bothering to count. The winner rose to 14-3-1.

Daryl Lattimore, 151, Wash., DC, was too much for woefully inexperienced Oscar Noriega, 156, Jersey City, who quit, claiming a hand injury, after two of a scheduled eight. Ref, Rainone.

Francis Kane, 153, Paris via NYC, was hooted for his caution, but rightly outboxed long-inactive Harry Reyes, 148, Hoboken, for a unanimous win, four. Ref, Cappuccino.

Van "Sherlock" Holmes, 132, York, PA, turned in a nifty performance outsmarting Vincent Green, 132, Bklyn., for a unanimous win in a lively four. Holmes became 2-0, while Green dropped to 0-2. Ref, Rainone.

Promoter: Cornell Richardson (CNR Promotions, Inc.).

Matchmaker: "Sug" Billups.

Attendance: 320 (est.).

TV: Sportschannel, New England Cable, Spanish Network Telemundo.

Timekeeper: Justin Bucanico.

Announcer: Frank Shain.

(11-20-87)

▶ATLANTIC CITY—Harrah's Marina Hotel & Casino—Co-feature 10s both had curiously unsatisfactory endings, though the winners would doubtless have remained the same had they gone more conventional routes.

In the fourth incarnation of a tortuously rescheduled top, Curtis Parker, 161¼, Phila., found himself paired with Phillip Morefield, 163¾, Detroit. It was the textbook veteran-versus-youth match, with the comebacking Parker inactive over a year, while the 16-0-1 kid had yet to face a real test. A crude brawler, Morefield was strong enough to herd Parker into the ropes, only to find that he'd gotten Curtis right where Parker wanted him. In savage, no-frills trading that Top Rank publicist Leroy Samuels could only describe as "Brutal! Brutal!" the vet appeared surprisingly sharp and lively. While the youth's clubbing punches lacked snap, Curtis was skillfully fighting off the ropes with short, crisp shots and effective bobbing.

"I was told he likes to get his man on the ropes, so my idea was to go there and do it to him better than he did it to me," Parker claimed later about what may have been more necessity than plan.

Morefield stood up well under repeated gongings, but the fearsome shelling had to be getting to him. He claimed afterward to have been employing the highly questionable "Scott Ledoux" plan of letting his opponent tire of hitting him.

"I was never really hurt," he declared. "And I knew he'd get tired sooner or later. That's what I do . . . I outlast people."

Whatever the wisdom of that tactic, it never got the full test. By the fifth, both fighters were cut by close-in head banging, with Morefield not permitted out for the sixth. The verdict went to the cards, with Parker earning a unanimous technical decision. Joe Pasquale had 50-43, Richard F. Murry 50-46, and William Kostrub 49-46. The winner lifted his record to 29-8. Steve Smoger refereed.

Written off as a seeming flash-in-the-pan, Sammy Fuentes came back to explode in the face of touted youngster Tony Martin. In a slick boxing match that provided sharp counterpoint to the savagery of its co-feature, Fuentes, 140¼, Loiza, PR, was getting the better of Martin, 141, Phila. Though the rounds were close, the stylish Tony is a bit mechanical and repetitious, while the lively Sammy offered more verve and variety. But that prepared no one for what happened in the fifth when a left hook shattered Martin's jaw. Tony attempted a brief clinch, then turned away and quit to lose on a TKO at 1:45. The loser, who blamed the fracture on Sammy's bouncing shoulder in the clinch, fell to 15-2, while the winner went to 16-5. Tony Perez refereed.

Bullish Steve Collins, 162¼, Brockton, used his head as a third weapon in clobbering a reluctant Benny Sims, 165, Youngstown, for a unanimous decision in a dreary eight. The unbeaten Collins won his seventh, while Sims fell to 5-8. Ref, Perez.

Free-swinging Derrick Rolon, 148¾, Elizabeth, attacked the body vigorously to drop Khalif Shabazz, 148¾, Hartford, in the first and third, on his way to a unanimous win, six. Derrick became 4-0 and Khalif 10-8. Ref, Smoger.

Promoter: Bob Arum (Top Rank, Inc.).

Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner & Ron Katz.

Attendance: 750 (est.).

TV: ESPN.

Timekeeper: Justin Bucanico.

Announcer: Mike Buffer.

(12-9-87)

J.R. JOWETT

▶ATLANTIC CITY—Resorts International—In a scheduled 12-round bout, "Smokin" Bert Cooper, 192, Sharon Hill, Pa., successfully defended his NABF cruiserweight title with a TKO win at 2:54 of Round Six against 18-year-old novice Andre "Big Daddy" McCall, 194½, Houston, Texas.

"Big Daddy" had some pretty big problems in this one. He was out of his league in experience, if not heart. He took a frightful beating—plenty of left hooks and overhand rights—in rounds one and two, and simply getting through those six minutes should have got him a nomination for a bronze star. Cooper eased off on the big guns over the next few rounds, but Andre had no real blueprint for victory as Cooper took his rest; just being there seemed victory enough.

The high-school student had lost every round, even those that saw Cooper take a break. Finally, a right hand no more powerful than numerous others he had been nailed with in the early rounds dropped McCall in mid-ring. He managed to pull himself up and get a few seconds reprieve, but when he immediately covered up as Cooper began to unwind once more, referee Steve Smoger wisely called it over.

Cooper is 17-2, 14 KOs, while McCall goes back to school with his first failure; 13-1-1, nine KOs. Judges: Milton Greene replaced John Poturaj in this bout.

In an intriguing but unfulfilling semi-windup, Kevin "Killer" Watts, 161½, Pleasantville, NJ, and Tyrone Mitchell Frazier, 161, Wyandanch, NY, boxed to a 10-round draw.

It was a bout filled with miscalculations. The taller, slicker, rangier and more experienced Watts failed to use his right effectively, hardly ever showed authority in his combinations, and appeared to waste many scoring chances by failing to take the initiative. For his part, Tyrone, trained by uncle Joe, never did get to make this a fire fight. Oh yes, there was some smoke damage, but the smothering Watts snuffed out much of Tyrone's will to crank it up. Many of his shots were landing only on the arms of Watts and he often fell into the embrace of his foe, rather than fight out of it.

The rule of the evening appeared to be just enough to get a draw and the judges obliged. The first four rounds saw them agree; one and four to Watts, two and three for Frazier. After that, there was not one unanimous round. Scoring: Joe Pasquale had it 97-94 for Frazier. William Kostrub gave it to Watts by 96-94. *The Ring* had it the same as Poturaj, 95-95. Referee; Rudy Battle.

Watts is 17-3-1, nine KOs, while Tyrone, who admitted in a rare moment of candor for a boxer that he felt lucky to get a draw, is now 13-0-2, seven KOs.

Esau Staley, 139½, NYC, took apart Al Sholomisky, 140, Pine Hill, NJ, and TKO'd him at 2:00 of Round Two; scheduled for four. Sholomisky, down once in that round, was making his pro debut. Ref was Battle

With each boxer making his initial outing, Cesar Leonardo, 161, Newark, NJ, won a four-round majority decision over Chad Riesel, 159, Herkimer, NY. There were no knockdowns in this lively affair. Referee was Battle.

Steve Collins, 162, Brockton, Ma., via Dublin, Ireland, took a six-round unanimous decision over Mike "Honey Bee" Williams, 162, NYC. Collins controlled the action with his jab and cemented his win by flooring his foe in Round Four via a right uppercut/left hook combination. Scores: Pasquale and Kostrub had it 59-54, while Poturaj saw it 59-53. Referee was Smogar.

Timekeeper: Art Spell.

Promoter: Gelb/Top Rank.

Matchmaker: Brenner & Katz.

Television: ESPN.

(11-20-87)

JACK OBERMAYER

▶ATLANTIC CITY—Sands Hotel Casino—Enterprising Lenny Shaw kept his stable busy with a modest, but entertaining card, and managed to go four-for-five.

"Smokin' " Bert Cooper, 191, Sharon Hill, PA, is back on the winning track, bludgeoning hapless Tim Bullock, 195, Fayetteville, NC, via Detroit, into a TKO after three of a scheduled 10. The game Bullock just didn't have enough to hold off the vigorously swarming Cooper and was bleeding and in trouble in every round. A severe eye cut, on top of general clobbering, forced Tim to remain in his corner before the fourth. Bullock fell to 11-6-1, while Bert rose to 18-2. Ref, Joe Cortez.

The companion 10 was just the opposite, a boxing match that was earnest, but hum-drum. Harold Petty, 122¼, St. Louis, won the unanimous verdict from Shaw's sounding board, Marino "El Gato" Ramirez, 120¾, Paterson. Normally a crowd-pleaser win or lose, El Gato was so frustrated by Petty's portside stance that he tried switching himself in the second. About all that did was slow the action as Ramirez couldn't mount his usual vigorous assault from the unfamiliar beachhead. The fireplug Petty kept a tight guard, keeping at just the right distance inside Marino's more roundabout shots, to skillfully, but unspectacularly, work him over with short punches. Frank Brunette scored 99-91, Lynne Carter 98-91 and Al DeVito 98-92. Ramirez drop-

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PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

"Smokin' " Bert Cooper (left) connects with a left to the chin of Tim Bullock en route to a third-round TKO in Atlantic City.

ped to 22-3, while Petty became 30-5. Ref, Tony Orlando.

Stylish Daryl Lattimore, 145¾, DC, outclassed flat-footed Mike Goudeau, 144½, St. Louis, who was beat up and stopped at 0:25 of the third, scheduled eight. Mike was bleeding and rocked into the ropes by a left from the southpaw, where Cortez quickly stopped it. Goudeau protested, but wasn't really in the fight. It was his sixth straight loss after eight initial wins, while the unbeaten Lattimore won his 10th.

Harold Rhodes, 124½, Jersey City, surprised Julio "El Puas" Merino, 132, Newark, pummeling him to a TKO at 0:53 of the second, scheduled four. Julio just couldn't avoid Harold's potent offense and was in trouble without respite. Ref, Orlando.

Dionisio Del Valle, 168¾, Paterson, outgunned Leo Bunion, 174¾, Maplewood, NJ, in a wild shootout to score a TKO at 1:34 of the second, scheduled four. Del Valle was winning big in the first until he punched himself out and was dropped on his face by a surprise right at the bell. The two were exchanging freely in the second when a left hook floored Bunion and Cortez halted it after assessing his condition.

Promoter: Lenny Shaw.
Matchmaker: Mike Acri.
Attendance: 550 (est.).
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker.
Announcer: Mike Buffer.
(12-4-87)

▶**EAST RUTHERFORD—Sheraton**—Former IBF junior middle titlist Mark Medal, 155½, Jersey City, finally got his oft-postponed comeback underway, but no one is quite sure if it was worth the wait. The mercurial Medal kept backers on edge with his unpredictability. But once in the ring, he could only trudge, somewhat unimaginatively, to a draw with Donald Johnson, 152, Brooklyn, 10.

The difficult spoiler Johnson was once cannon fodder, but is now nobody's fool. After surviving an explosive first, Donald proceeded to fade back behind a peppery jab and sneak, slapping rights. The pursuing Medal couldn't find him, but caught enough in the kisser to know there was somebody out there.

Mark's right eye was puffing when he finally reached Donald with a left hook early in the seventh, dropping him. After that, Johnson did more grabbing than punching as Medal raced to catch up. But the upsetter managed enough offense in the 10th to leave the verdict up for grabs. Judge John Riley was impressed by Johnson's boxing, 96-93, but Eva Shain was having none of it at 97-92 Medal. Ron Burns was closest to the truth at 95-all.

While draws are generally regarded as double losses, this time both fighters were happy. Johnson felt rightly he'd sprung an upset, while Medal expressed contentment with his performance against a slippery trickster in going 24-3-1.

"I'm glad I got the draw," said Medal. "I'll just go back to the gym and work even harder. He was running a lot and holding when he started to feel my power. On another night, he doesn't go four rounds with me." Tony Perez refereed.

In the companion 10, Medal's teammate, Robert "Pee Wee" Rucker, left nothing to doubt. Rucker, 150, Harlem, was impressive with a perfect, one-punch KO of Lorenzo Guzman, 154, Dom. Rep. via Miami, at 1:38 of the second. Lorenzo walked unawares into a whiplash right counter that dropped him flat on his face. Tony Orlando refereed.

In the night's most entertaining bout, Alphonso Bailey, 155½, Jersey City, and Mack Brown, 156, Freeport, LI, drew a prolonged ovation throughout the eighth and final round. Bailey was too sharp and constantly got the better of crackling exchanges to take a unanimous win. But the stubborn Brown refused to roll over and extended Bailey for all he had. Alphonso became 13-1 and Mack 8-3. Ref, Perez.

In a strange affair that could have made two new eunuchs for the harem, both Walter Houston, 150, Staten I., and Jesus Velez, 153, Newark, decided the groin was more attractive than the head, and acting was preferable to fighting. First Houston visited the canvas in the second, holding his nether parts and grimacing in agony. He was given a rest, then retaliated in kind. In the fifth, it was Velez' turn on the deck, putting on an even more dramatic performance and refusing to continue. When Orlando ruled the scheduled six a TKO at 2:46, Jesus went for the Oscar. This necessitated an appearance by the commission "enforcer," 260-pound nice guy Larry Lee, to bring down the curtain on Jesus' act.

Ray Ruiz, 153, Passaic, overwhelmed Pat Cutaneo, 149, Jersey City, scoring a knockdown and standing eight for a TKO at 2:04 of a blazing first, scheduled four. Ref, Orlando.

Promoters: Jim Wiley & Bob Miles (Hudson County Enterprises).
Matchmakers: Jim Wiley & Mike Acri.
Attendance: 325, $13,500 (est.).
TV: Riverview Cable.
Timekeeper: Justin Bucanico.
Announcer: Mike Buffer.
(11-27-87)

J.R. JOWETT

NEW YORK

▶**NEW YORK CITY—Felt Forum**—Michael Olajide Jr. got back into the win column with an ugly but well-earned sixth-round stoppage of Franklin Owens in the scheduled 10-round main event.

Olajide, coming off a bad beating at the hands of Frank Tate two months ago, looked rusty and tentative at first, and the awkward Owens was able to score points by crowding and bullying him. But after the poor start, Olajide decked Owens late in the third with a half-punch, half-push. This started Owens floundering, and he was never in the fight again. The fourth round was three minutes of pushing and mauling, and the crowd expressed its displeasure. A right uppercut put Owens down again in the fifth and a left to the body accounted for a third knockdown in the sixth, at which point Owens made it clear to ref Arthur Mercante Sr. that he was no longer interested. The time was 2:00. The Manhattan-based Olajide, who weighed 162, is now 24-1, 17 kayoes. Owens (161, Oklahoma City), who lost points in the second and sixth rounds for clinching and kicking, respectively, fell to 17-5, six kayoes.

James "Buddy" McGirt (140½, Brentwood, N.Y.) had his usual easy time against the usual nothing-much opponent, who in this case was the once-promising John Sinegal (137, Lafayette, La.). McGirt improved to 36-1-1, 31 kayoes, by scoring three quick knockdowns and winning on a TKO at 1:54 of the opening round of a scheduled 10. Sinegal, who never landed a punch, was in tears afterwards. And well he should have been. He's now 26-8-1, 15 kayoes. Carl Schroeder refereed.

In the other scheduled 10, an immensely fat Michael Dokes (245, Miami) had his first fight in more than two years, winning on a fifth-round TKO from trialhorse K.P. Porter (201, Battle Creek, Mich.) in a surprisingly entertaining bout. Dokes, who entered the ring throwing roses to the crowd, was in control throughout, but Porter gave a good account of himself, standing his ground and slugging it out with the former WBA heavyweight pretender. The third round was a first-class slugfest, neither man giving an inch, but Dokes' punches were clearly the more damaging and by the fourth it appeared to be only a matter of time before Porter would collapse. This he did, going down from a right hook at the bell after three minutes of non-stop punishment. His seconds let Porter come out for the fifth, but he was clearly helpless, and ref Charlie Norkus pulled Dokes away at the 0:25 mark. Dokes, who might still be a prospect if he loses 30 pounds, now has a record of 30-1-2, 17 kayoes. The balding Porter disimproved to 13-6-1, eight kayoes.

Local favorite Richard Burton (163, The Bronx) went to 14-4, 12 kayoes with a worthy two-round TKO of James Barham (165½, Philadelphia) in a scheduled eight. Barham decked Burton late in the first round with a sneak right hand and flailed desperately at him for the remaining 20 seconds, but Burton came out for the second fully recovered and soon had Barham down from a couple of right hands. He then methodically beat Barham to the proverbial pulp, and ref Schroeder stopped it at the 2:01 mark. The difference in this bout was obviously discipline: Barham (6-7, three kayoes) blew his cool after decking Burton; Burton stayed calm after decking Barham, and that won him the fight.

The best bout of the night ended in a major upset as Warren Nelson (152, Philadelphia) stopped up-and-coming Mark Weinman (154½, Whitestone, N.Y.) at 2:02 of the eighth and final round. This one was a brawl all the way and very entertaining. Weinman was having his way with Nelson for the first three rounds, and Nelson sustained a bad cut over the right eye that looked like it might cost him the bout. But Weinman burst a glove midway through the fourth, and Nelson seemed to recover himself while the mitt was being replaced. Weinman was still outscoring him, but was clearly tiring, and Nelson got stronger as the bout went along. Weinman came out for the eighth well ahead on points, but almost too worn out to stay on his feet, and his left eye was closing fast. Nelson went on the offensive in this round, and ref Nick Drake finally stopped the match with Weinman wobbling and goofy from several unanswered haymakers. Nelson pushed his record to 5-4-1 with the surprise victory; Weinman dropped to 11-2, seven kayoes, and his stamina, always suspect, is now completely exposed.

A gross mismatch saw Glenwood Brown (145, Plainfield, N.J.) stay unbeaten at 15-0, 12 kayoes, by disposing of Joe Edens (146, Nashville, Tenn.). Edens, who looks something like the magician, Teller, tried hard, but was down twice in the first round, both times from lefts to the chin. A thunderous right hook late in Round Two had him completely out on his feet; ref Drake stopped it immediately, at 2:52 of the second. It had been scheduled for eight. Edens, who went to 12-5, five kayoes, gave vent to a loud string of curses when he realized what had happened.

Alex Stewart (222, Brooklyn) scored his ninth kayo in as many fights, stopping John Morton (214, Louisville) at 1:00 of the fourth of a scheduled six. This was a

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simple war of attrition, with Stewart gradually wearing Morton down over the first three heats, then decking him with a sweeping right to the jaw in the opening minute of the fourth. Morton (now 4-2, two kayoes) struggled up at seven, but ref Schroeder stopped it a few seconds later.

Owen McGeachy (137½, Brooklyn) went to 7-1, four kayoes, starching Sammy O'Neill (140, Troy, N.Y.) with one right hand to the body at 1:58 of the first in a scheduled six. Not really a fight. Drake refereed.

A pretty good four-rounder saw Merqui Sosa (164, New York City) successful in his pro debut, taking a unanimous decision from Terminator Coles (163, Brooklyn). This bout featured a lot of skillful exchanges, with Sosa, who actually uses the bolo punch as a scoring weapon, systematically outslugging Coles. Judges Victor Suarez, Johnny LoBianco and George DeGabriel all agreed on 3-1 scores; *The Ring* saw it 3-0-1, Sosa. It was Coles' first reversal in three pro bouts.

Tomas Hernandez (134, The Bronx) won the walkout and improved his record to 2-1 with an uninspired four-round decision over Vincent Green (134, Brooklyn), who is now 0-2. All officials, and *The Ring*, tabbed it 3-1.

On the whole, a pretty good card.

Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.

Announcer: Ed Derian.

Attendance: 2,816.

(12-17-87)

JOSEPH D'O'BRIAN

▶**HUDSON FALLS**—Kevin Daigle, 156, South Granville, captured a 10-round decision over Anthony John Corrado, 156, Wappingers, but the victory proved costly.

Daigle was suspended 45 days to allow time for lacerations he suffered to heal.

Dinisio DelValle, 174, a 19-year-old from The Bronx, won by disqualification in Round Five over Brooklyn's Jaime Cordova, 170.

Three four-rounders completed the card.

Marion Butler, 220, Springfield, Massachusetts, scored a decision over New York City's Charles Johnson, 228.

Mike Dozier, 171, Syracuse, won by decision against Waterbury, Connecticut's Andrew Gordon, 178.

Poughkeepsie's Allen Longi, 137, was a points winner over Rafael Rodriguez, 138, The Bronx.

Promoter: Final R.A. Promotions.

Referees: Papacharambous & Ucci.

Judges: Shahanian, Ackerman & Pier.

(10-16-87)

OHIO

▶**YOUNGSTOWN—Maronite Center**—Former IBF lightweight boss Harry Arroyo, 145, turned in a workmanlike performance with a fifth-round stoppage of previous victim, trialhorse Nick Parker, 146, of Erie, Pa.

The ex-titleholder forced the action and noticeably weakened Parker with a steady body attack. In the fifth, a left hook to the body dropped Parker, who arose only to receive more punishment. After a right to the rib cage sent Parker down again, referee Joe Gonzalez waved it over at the 2:33 mark of the headlined 10.

Roland Cummings, 139, Youngstown, had an easy night's work as his opponent Reggie Strickland, 138, Cincinnati, offered very little resistance. Cummings floored the bicycling southpaw twice in the first and twice more in the second at which point referee Tony Maiorana halted the stinker at the 2:51 mark of Round Two in the scheduled six.

Coming off an erratic performance in losing his last outing, once-beaten welterweight prospect Louis Howard, 150, St. Louis, displayed top form in dishing out a beating to Ridney Tatum, 151, Akron. Tatum, down once in the first, failed to answer the bell for the second, scheduled six. Ref, Maiorana.

Anthony Collier, 137, Cleveland, upset popular local lad Craig Snyder, 138, Youngstown, with a career-ending knockout at 2:59 of the third. Snyder appeared to be in control until midway through the third when a vicious left hook left him for dead. Snyder barely arose and tried to survive the round, but an overhand right by Collier found the mark and sent Craig flying out of the ring only to get caught between the first and third rope strands, where he hung unconciously for nearly a minute. After several anxious moments, Snyder came to and was carefully led to his dressing room. Joe Gonzalez refereed the scheduled six.

Fernando Ruperto, 142, Youngstown, floored debuting Waldo Underwood, 141, Youngstown, twice in the second en route to a unanimous win over six. Scores: Larry Dickey and John Marino both had 29-25, while Tom Figley saw it 29-23. Ref, Gonzalez.

Promoter: John Giachetti/TKO Productions.

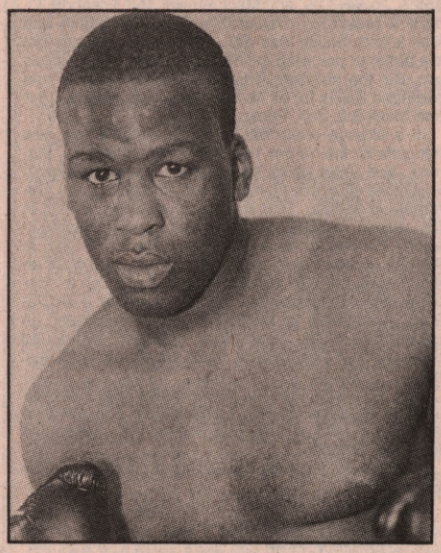
Matchmaker: Robert Mittleman.

Timekeeper: Jackie DeSarro.

Announcer: Bob Roth.

Attendance: 750 (est.).

(11-18-87)



James "Buster" Douglas returned to the win column with an easy second-round kayo over late sub Donnie Long.

▶**COLUMBUS—Downtown Sheraton**—Heavyweight hopeful James "Buster" Douglas, 234, Columbus, made his first hometown appearance in over three years a successful one as he stopped late substitute Donnie Long, 252, Akron, at 2:18 of the second stanza.

Douglas was originally slated to face Welshman David Pearce in the scheduled 10. But that was scrapped at the weigh-in when it was learned that Pearce had failed a CAT-scan. So an out-of-shape Long was brought in on three-hours notice.

Long came out swinging as he figured he had only two or three rounds in him. Douglas, however, covered up well and a flurry dropped Long in the second. He was counted out on one knee.

In the 10-round co-feature, Kemper Morton, 174, Columbus, scored a TKO at 2:53 of Round Six over game Tony Curovic, 173, Cleveland. The bout was fairly competitive, but was called when the referee felt the protesting Curovic had taken too many punches.

Debuting Bill Melsop, 190, Columbus, needed only 29 seconds to halt a poorly conditioned Juan Davila, 183, Lorain. Davila was floored early, and the referee called a stop to the scheduled four when Davila complained about being thumbed.

Wes Caldwell, 150, Columbus, scored a TKO over Ron Tanner, 155, Columbus, at 1:50 of the second. Tanner had been down once in the first and once in the second of the scheduled four.

In a bout featuring two debutants, Randy Kelly, 144, Columbus, scored a unanimous, four-round decision over Larry Brown, 147, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Promoter: Ray Hale/Future Productions.

Matchmaker: Tom Vacca.

Timekeeper: Fred Simon.

Attendance: 1,200 (est.).

(11-19-87)

ERICH GLIEBE

OKLAHOMA

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY—Central Plaza Hotel**—Jerry "Wimpy" Halstead successfully defended his state heavyweight championship, winning a unanimous 12-round decision over Bobby Crabtree.

Crabtree, who resides in Fort Smith, Arkansas, could compete for the Oklahoma state title by claiming residence in Pocola.

The bout was Halstead's 18th of 1987, with the 24-year-old losing only to Tony Tubbs via a 10-round decision. Since, he has notched 11 straight wins to improve his overall record to 32-2 with 27 knockouts. His only other loss came at the close of 1986 when he was stopped in nine rounds by Greg Page.

"I'm ready for those big paydays," said Halstead. "Because I'm active, I deserve those things. Name one other fighter in any weight division that's had that many fights in one year."

Crabtree had been losing with monotonous regularity and apparently saw the match with Halstead as a chance to get his career on the right side of the ledger for a change. But the bout almost didn't last past the first round.

In the opening three minutes, the two pounded each other while tied up and Halstead leaned on Crabtree, almost bulling him out of the ring. Meanwhile, Crabtree started kneeing Halstead. Halstead replied by using his own knee. When Crabtree's cornerman joined the fray, chaos resulted, the bell finally bringing a halt to what was becoming a bizarre situation.

In Round Four, Crabtree had his nose bloodied and in Round Six he resorted to spitting and cursing at Halstead. In between the extra-curricular activities, the two were providing a good slugfest and Halstead finally put his man down in the 10th with a hard left. He couldn't finish him, however, and Crabtree fought hard the last two rounds only to lose by six, four and eight points on the three scorecards.

On the undercard, Rocky Berg and Robert Whitfield, went at it, Berg winning by TKO when Whitfield quit on his stool with a small cut over his eye before the fourth round started. Whitfield's surrender was rather odd as Berg's right eye was nearly closed and he was bleeding from the nose.

Ron "The Animal" Johnson of Oklahoma City had little difficulty winning by decision over Ronnie Lee Warrior of Okmulgee.

Rodney "Dangerfield" Porter of Oklahoma City decisioned Pablo Valdez of Mexico.

(12-1-87)

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY—Central Plaza Hotel**—Heavyweight Jerry "Wimpy" Halstead posted a 10-round decision win over Keith McMurry of Los Angeles.

McMurry, who fell to 15-5, survived the distance without being knocked down, but Halstead said later, "I felt bad going into the fight. I was distracted by some problems with the fight's promotion. Does George Foreman have to set up his own ring? Does he have to do his own promotions?"

Halstead was upset because his original opponent, Oscar Reed, canceled when detained by a snow storm in Denver. In his previous bout, Ivy Brown pulled out when his son was involved in a car accident.

"I can understand these things, like getting snowed in and having your son involved in a serious car wreck," Halstead told Mike Fry, sports editor of the *Tribune-Review*. "But I'm a professional. When I sign my name to a contract to fight, I'm gonna' be there."

Gary Lefler, Midwest City, won a split decision over Oklahoma City's Roger Choate.

Rocky Berg flattened Tim Jackson in just 41 seconds of a scheduled four. Both are from Oklahoma City.

Okmulgee's Mark Hammond knocked out Oklahoma City's Willie Wood at 34 seconds of the second round of a slated six.

Buck Smith, Oklahoma City, scored a unanimous decision over Memphis, Tennessee's Simmie Black.

(11-17-87)

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY—Central Plaza Hotel**—Jerry "Wimpy" Halstead, local heavyweight hope, knocked the hat off Stan Johnson's head before their scheduled 10-rounder began, then knocked Johnson out in just 2:04 to record his 27th KO victory.

Johnson, of Milwaukee, came into the ring wearing a yachting cap. But Halstead, dancing around the ring prior to the introductions, took offense to Johnson's apparel and swatted the cap from Johnson's head.

"When he tipped my hat off my head, I was still trying to stay cool and calm as you well can see, but he pissed me off and I was all smoking inside and I just wanted to knock him out," said Johnson, who fell to 19-9-1 as a replacement for Ivy Brown. "I'm a boxer, not a slugger, especially early in the fight when you're fighting somebody with the punching power that he's got. I'm just one fighter who can't fight when he's mad."

Halstead said, "Gentlemen take their hats off when they come indoors. Even if they haven't got any hair, they still take their hats off. I didn't think that was appropriate. And you know what else? I didn't like his hat."

Kurt Doefler of Oklahoma City and Robert Whitfield of Little Rock, Arkansas, fought to a draw.

Vernon Garrett of Oklahoma City notched a four-round majority decision over Rocky Berg, also of Oklahoma City.

Little Rock's J.D. Dobbins and Oklahoma City's Ron Johnson battled to a six-round draw.

(11-3-87)

PENNSYLVANIA

▶PHILADELPHIA—Blue Horizon—When promoter Russell Peltz advertised that unheard-of Derwin Richards could give house-fighter Hughie "Buttons" Kearney "a rougher night than he bargained for" and was "not an opponent," but "came here to win," it sounded like typical, hollow drum-beating. But Peltz wasn't kidding! Kearney, 146½, W. Phila., could get no better than a draw with Richards, 146½, Houston, after a well-fought, disciplined, yet sizzling 10. The stand-up, rangy visitor showed good mastery of the fundamentals, added to a hot pursuit that allowed the classy local little room to maneuver. A big right jarred Hughie late in the second and served notice that the hype was no bull.

Kearney has enough wizardry to provide a thriller against a foe who makes him fight, but will be content to stink the joint out against an inferior opponent who offers no challenge. Fortunately, Richards was the former. The action was tight and tough to call all the way, with the local holding the edge at long range and the Texan stronger on the ropes. Yet both fought well on the other's terms, negating any clear control of the action. Buttons pulled out all the stops in a late charge that might have nipped Derwin at the wire. But while they didn't agree on much, the local judges couldn't be accused of homerism. Joe O'Neil had Kearney, 47-43, but Al Morris had Richards, 48-47, and Lynne Carter scored it even at 45. It was Kearney's first smudge after 17 wins, while Derwin became 15-6-2. Ref, Tommy Reid.

Rodney Moore, 140½, N. Phila., scored a unanimous win over Joe Alexander, 142, formerly Port of Spain, Trinidad, now W. Phila., in a crowd-pleasing eight. It was about as good a fight as could be gotten from a one-sided beating. The newcomer was down from a sweeping left hook in the first, but gritted out heavy leather to make sleeper Moore work hard every inch of the way. Alexander fell to 11-8-1. Ref, Rudy Battle.

Youngster Nate Miller, 190½, Germantown, tangled with a dangerous veteran, but rose to the occasion. Stanley Ross, 182, N. Phila., rattled Nate with a sneak left hook early in the first, but Miller fought out of it well to assume command. The totally shot Ross never landed another serious punch, getting mercilessly drubbed into the fifth of a scheduled eight, when his corner flung the towel at 0:51. Stanley sank to 11-13-1. Ref, Reid.

An even better effort was that of Andre "Thee" Prophet, 175½, N. Phila., who, in only his third bout, destroyed 10-round vet Nestor Flores, 181, Panama City via NYC, at 2:30 of the first, scheduled six. Flores was unceremoniously dumped twice before Battle halted it.

In a comedy-thriller, Jerry Rash, 195, Elkton, MD, via Phila., and George Wilson, 195½, Wilmington, swung for the seats until the rugged Rash wore out Wilson with a crunching body attack. George was stopped on his feet at 1:43 of the third, scheduled four. Ref, Reid.

Robert Hightower, 138, N. Phila., easily dispatched a disinterested Colin King, 138½, Brooklyn, who dropped twice and didn't want to continue at 1:54 of the first, scheduled four. Ref, Reid.

Prospect Troy Smith, 141½, N. Phila., got all he wanted in winning a unanimous verdict over unschooled Earl Madia Williams, 142, W. Phila., in a lively four. Ref, Battle.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing Promotions.
Matchmakers: J. Russell Peltz & Gary Hegyi.
Attendance: 1,018, $11,500.
TV: USA Cable.
Timekeeper: J.P. Mina.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
(11-11-87)

▶NOTES: The Pennsylvania Commission has changed the official results of two recent bouts at this venue. The August 18 main event between Robert Hines and Donald Bowers was changed from a TKO win for Hines to a no contest on the grounds that Hines hit Bowers while down, with ref Rudy Battle halting the contest without allowing Bowers a rest period . . . The September 15 bout between Darryl Martin and Ali Saad Muhammad was changed from a TKO win for Martin to a technical draw as the eye cut to Saad which caused ref Charlie Sgrillo to halt the bout was ruled to have been caused by an accidental clash of heads. Two judges had the bout even at the time, while the third had Muhammad ahead.

J.R. JOWETT

▶PHILADELPHIA—The Blue Horizon—The career of "Dangerous" Darryl Martin is dangerously close to being over after he was defused by Ali Saad Muhammad via an eight-round unanimous decision in this venerable denizen of dukedom.

With no cable TV deal to back him financially, promoter J. Russell Peltz closed the year with a low-budget offering that was saved by the rousing, if somewhat one-sided main go.

Martin, 140, Harrisburg, Pa., and Muhammad, 141½, Phila., had met only a few months earlier and at the time Darryl was awarded a five-round TKO when a cut right eyelid on Saad would not allow him to continue. Ali filed a protest and after a review of the tape by the commission, it was ruled the cut was caused by an accidental butt. Thus, the cards were added up and it became a majority draw—one vote for Saad; two even.

Tonight, Ali Saad used the early rounds as a testing ground. It proved highly beneficial for his herky-jerky southpaw style. On the inside, Martin could not get the proper leverage, and on the outside he was not quick-handed enough to stymie the unorthodox punching of Ali. The use of the right uppercut was invaluable; catching Martin on numerous occasions as he worked his way inside, or at least attempted to.

With the fight slipping away, Martin resorted to marching in behind his heavy artillery. Here it became a simple case of a physically well-prepared Muhammad holding off the charge and then some, with the final four sessions living up to the reputation embodied in this hall; a bewildered Martin trying desperately to overtake his dominating nemesis in a battle to the finish.

Scoring: Both Frank Cappuccino and Carol Polis had it 38-34, while Manny Altman saw it 40-33. *The Ring* card also had it 38-34, giving Darryl only the first and sixth rounds. The referee was Charlie Sgrillo. Muhammad is listed as 7-2-3, three KOs, while the 30-year-old Martin falls to 11-4-1, nine KOs.

Back to the ring—for some holiday spending money, I figure—came fireplug Woody Clark, 208, Fayetteville, NC, in a scheduled eight. He offered some resistance, but at age 34 could only muster up short spurts against the rather inexperienced (now 9-0, seven KOs), but more energetic 24-year-old Nate "Mr." Miller, 188,

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Philadelphia. The no-knockdown bout ended as a fifth-round TKO when Clark was not allowed out for the following round due to a cut left eyelid. Ref; Cappuccino.

Tony "Dynamite" Green, 126, W. Phila., had a successful pro debut in a scheduled four when he won by KO at 1:16 of the first over Ronald Evans, 123, So. Philadelphia. Green just simply drilled his man all along the ropes and finally Evans was sent sprawling into his own corner for the bout's lone knockdown. Ref; Cappuccino.

Willie Rivera, 138, No. Phila., met little resistance in his scheduled four. William Reid, 139, Baltimore, just wasn't interested in putting up a fight. Reid went tumbling to the canvas just after Cappuccino had waived it over. Rivera was thus awarded a TKO win at 2:02 of Round One.

Oscar Ponce, 148, Baltimore via Argentina, turned pro with a four-round unanimous decision over Wayne Travagline, 146, from the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. All cards read 20-16. Travagline is notorious as a man of many moves but few punches as he profiled his way all around the ring while Ponce was busy earning the win. The ref was Sgrillo.

In yet another scheduled four, prospect Andre "Thee" Prophet, 176, No. Phila., won by TKO at 1:29 of the first when rookie John Jones, 175, Baltimore, had had enough. It wasn't that Jones had not been willing, he was just completely outclassed. Prophet is 4-0, all by the short route. Ref; Sgrillo.

Timekeeper: J.P. Mina.

Promoter/Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz.

(12-8-87)

JACK OBERMAYER

▶**ERIE—Quality Inn**—Detroit's Billy Hearns, 128, spoiled the show for Pittsburgh's Danny Faiello, 125, stopping the local in the sixth round of the scheduled eight-round main event.

A second eight-rounder also was bad news for Pennsylvania fans as Erie's John Bizzaro Jr., 142, dropped a decision to Cleveland's Raul Torres, 140.

Sharon's Dave Overton, 174¾, emerged with a six-round decision win over Beckley, West Virginia's Burt Gravely, 175.

John "Boy" Bizzaro, 136, Erie, also was defeated, dropping a four-round decision to Youngstown's Fernando Ruperto, 138.

Sharon's Willie Phillips, 224, stopped Charleston, West Virginia's Jack Balser, 210, in the second round.

Referees: Andy DePaul, Paddy Grimes & Bob Baker.

Physicians: Beck & Canosa.

Timekeeper: Jim Bruce.

Judges: Baker, Herb Scott & Babe Harkins.

Announcer: Steve Bohen.

(11-11-87)

▶**MONROEVILLE—Monzo's Howard Johnson's**—Pittsburgh's Anthony LaQuatra headlined, winning an eight-round decision over Buffalo's Thomas Elston. Each weighed 120.

Four six-rounders completed the card.

Homestead's Carl Sullivan, 154, stopped Cleveland's Harold Kimbro, 157, in the second.

Clairton's Billy Brock, 126, decisioned Altoona's Dave Thomas, 127.

Youngstown, Ohio's Lenzie Morgan, 160, decisioned Pittsburgh's Dan Mitchell, 163.

Sal LaQuatra, 116, Pittsburgh, stopped South Charles, West Virginia's Marvin Adams, 122, in three.

Referees: Andy DePaul & Paddy Grimes.

Physician: Timothy Ward.

Timekeeper: Jim Bruce.

Judges: Bob Baker & Herb Scott.

Announcer: Don DeGenther.

(11-25-87)

TENNESSEE

▶**MEMPHIS—Omni-Daisy Theatre**—Little Rock, Arkansas' J.D. Dobbins didn't get to hold on to his Mid South Boxing Southern junior middleweight title, losing the crown in his first defense.

Millington's Reggie Barnes, 155, became the new titleholder, beating Dobbins' 154½, by unanimous decision after 12 rounds, the scores reading 118-116, 117-113 and 116-114.

The punch swapping was pretty even in the early going, but Barnes took the initiative midway through and carried it to victory.

Greg Dickson, 152, Memphis, improved his mark to 13-1 by stopping Rickey Randall, 146, New Orleans, at 1:14 of the fourth round in a scheduled six.

Covington's Chuck Glover, 143, upped his record to 18-2 when he stopped Miguel Vargas, 137½, New Or-

leans, in just 2:35 of a scheduled six-rounder.

Chuck's younger brother, Phil, 158, made his pro debut with a controversial split, four-round decision over Little Rock's Robert Whitfield, also 158. Glover came off the deck for the disputed win.

Michael Flowers, 142, Memphis, won a four-round decision over Covington's Rob Williamson, 137.

Jackson's Roy Bedwell, 161½, stopped Danny Wright, 159½, at 2:35 of the fourth and final round.

Promoter: Tom Harmon/Mid South Boxing, Inc.
Matchmaker: Red Fortner.
Announcer: Sleepy Rutherford.
Judges: Gilbert Beam, James Perkins, Haywood Watts, Sam Garland & Mark Atcherson.
Referees: Jim Kidd, Garland & Irving Tucker.
Timekeeper: Rod Cardone.
Physician: Dr. Jeff Hoover.
Attendance: 600.
(12-1-87)

MICHAEL GLENN

▶**BRISTOL—Bristol International Speedway**—Former WBA heavyweight champion John Tate ended a 17-month hiatus by winning a four-round decision over Cleveland's Calvin Jones.

Tate laboriously stalked the 6-4, 225-pound Jones but was simply too slow to land cleanly on the elusive Ohioan. A feeble attempt at the Ali shuffle by the 32-year-old, 293-pound Tate brought a burst of derisive laughter from the SRO crowd in the third round, and that was only the beginning of Big John's farcical antics. After the fight, Tate, now fighting out of Morristown, Tennessee, announced to the world that he wants Mike Tyson. Masochism, it seems, is suddenly rampant in the heavyweight ranks. Arsenic would be cleaner and much less painful.

The judges scored 40-36 (twice) and 38-38, enabling Tate to extend his record to 33-2 with 27 knockouts.

In other action, 17-year-old light heavyweight Mark Carrier of Bristol knocked out Tim McCurdy of Louisville, Kentucky, in just 1:38. Carrier, making his pro debut, ended it with a brisk right uppercut followed by a blazing left hook to the head.

In another abbreviated bout, lightweight Gary Stallworth of Elizabethtown knocked out Cincinnati's Jerry Strickland in just 1:28. Stallworth, whose record is 5-2, shows promise.

Heavyweight Terry Dyer of Bristol posted a first-round TKO over Bill Green of Cincinnati.

Mestapha Cole of Hamilton, Ohio, won a unanimous decision over Bristol's Mike Belcher in a free-for-all middleweight contest.

Wesley Watson, former four-time, all-Army heavyweight champion from Bristol, remained undefeated by scoring a first-round TKO over Jeff Burg of Louisville. Watson continues to impress.

JERI SURBER

VIRGINIA

▶**CRYSTAL CITY**—The 10-round main event saw Cleveland's Tommy Hanks, 133, win by decision over Arlington's Keely Thompson, 134.

In a scheduled eight, Willie Taylor, 141, Falls Church, stopped Philadelphia's 18-year-old Tommy Mazzucca, 140, in the second.

Randy Richardson, 141, decisioned Anthony Shaw, 145, in a six-rounder between Washington, D.C. residents.

Brad McCoy, 164, won by disqualification over Lemorrah Bolding, 168, in another scheduled six. Both are from Maryland.

Promoter: Chambers.
Referees: Levy & Green.
Judges: Favin, LaPrade & Whitestone.
Timekeeper: Hall & Peters.
Physician: Branch.
(12-5-87)

CANADA

▶**HALIFAX—The Forum**—This card became a promoter's nightmare when, just hours before fight time, James "Quick" Tillis of Tulsa, Oklahoma pulled out of a scheduled 10-rounder against Toronto's Donovan Ruddock.

Tillis had passed his mid-morning medical, but complained of a shoulder injury suffered the previous day when he fell on the stairs. The injury was diagnosed by the Halifax commission doctor as a torn rotator cuff and was confirmed by commissioner Eric Thompson.

At the weigh-in, Tillis looked out of condition at 235 pounds. Ruddock weighed 221.

Eddie Richardson of Dallas was brought in as a replacement. Though 6-6 and scaling 220, he showed little desire to fight. After three rounds in which Richardson did more talking than fighting, Ruddock dropped his opponent three times with hard left hooks in the fourth to end the bout at 1:42.

It was not even a good workout for Ruddock.

In the co-feature, Trevor Berbick returned to Halifax and was extended 10 rounds by New Jersey's Robbie Evans, who came in with a reported 25-13 record.

The 35-year-old Berbick was very sluggish, and fans began booing at the midway point, showing their displeasure at Berbick's lackluster effort. There were no knockdowns, Berbick winning by unanimous decision.

On the undercard, Toronto middleweight Sadik Sulemana stopped Moncton's Drake Thadzi at 43 seconds of the fourth of a scheduled eight.

Darrell Flint, Halifax, KO'd Gary McIntyre, Baie Ste Anne, at the 43-second mark of Round Six.

Promoters: Murad Muhammad & Ringside Promotions.
Attendance: 5,000 (est.).
(11-27-87)

▶**TORONTO—U.N.F. Hall**—A small club card fell apart at the seams when two fighters from the United States failed to show. Information given out by the commission office stated that their manager had been picked up by the police, and they would not come in on their own.

The replacement for the main event had Toronto's Jimmy Gradson meeting Paul Bonner, a kick-boxing champion, over eight rounds. Bonner was no match for Gradson, who scored at will with hard body shots and uppercuts. At the end of three rounds, referee Harry Davis called a halt when Bonner, suffering from a damaged left eye, did not answer the bell for the fourth.

Over six rounds, welterweights Pat McWilliams, Scarborough, won a split decision over Allan Langlois, St. Catherines.

Brampton lightweight Albert Dumas knocked down Toronto's Pat Layne twice in the fourth round before stopping him at 1:03 of that frame.

Light heavyweight Donnell Wingfield, Brampton, won a split decision over Jeff Horton of Niagara Falls.

Promoters: D'Amico & Melich.
Referees: Davis & Bell.
Judges: Mitchell, Bullard & Cormier.
Physicians: Sazant & Murray.
(11-16-87)

▶**WINNIPEG**—Muhammad Eltassi of Winnipeg won the vacant Canadian middleweight title when he was awarded a split, 12-round decision over Edmonton's Kelly Perlette.

There were no knockdowns, but the bout was hard fought with Eltassi suffering cuts over both eyes. Perlette, in his first bout over 10 rounds, was the better boxer, but the aggressive Eltassi finished strongly and got the nod.

The day after the fight, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested Eltassi on charges of breaking and entering. The police could have arrested Eltassi the day before, but stated they felt it would not have been fair to arrest him on the day of the championship fight.
(11-17-87)

FRANK ALLNUTT

▶**WINDSOR, ONTARIO**—Donovan Boucher of Toronto successfully defended his Canadian welterweight title by scoring a KO over Wayne Gordon of Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, at the 40-second mark of the 11th round.

Boucher was in control all the way, scoring with hard rights and good combinations. Gordon was dropped in the second round and was staggered badly in the middle rounds. He was in bad shape at the end of the 10th and did not beat the count when dropped for the second time early in the 11th.

Boucher pushed his record to 16-1, while Gordon dropped to 10-4.

Milton McCrory stopped one Jerome Kelly at 2:50 of the second round in the main event. McCrory looked sharp and was in control.

The card's opener saw Canada's Robby Robinson with a unanimous four-round decision over Ohio's Cleveland Watkins.

Kronk's sterling Stanley Longstreet ran his record to 11-0 in the lightweight division, decisioning Ottawa's Gregg Gayle, who fell to 8-3. Ref Bobby Watson deducted a point from Longstreet for low blows, but Gayle needed more than that.

In a middleweight battle, Todd "Double Hammer" Nadon of Windsor, Ontario made his Kronk debut against a tough Harold "Sockless" Kimbro of Cleveland in what ended a majority draw. Nadon dropped his left shoulder and led with his face, and Kimbro quickly discovered that left jabs and right hooks could find their mark, which they did.

Attendance: 1,000.
(11-20-87)

FRANK ALLNUTT/
TOM PARUSZKIEWICZ

CENTRAL AMERICA

JAMAICA

▶**KINGSTON—Wyndham Hotel**—Another excellent show by Ringside Promotions continued the upward trend of Jamaica's boxing revival. Four of five bouts went the distance, providing all-out action.

The feature attraction was the defense by Richard "Shrimpy" Clarke of his two titles, the WBC world junior flyweight and the CAC.

Clarke kept both, winning a comfortable 12-round unanimous decision over challenger Julio Gudino, the champion of Panama. Vincent Fenton, the only local judge, scored 119-112, while referee Harry Cruz of Aruba carded 119-113 and Trinidad's Medrick Taylor judged 119-111.

Gudino was the aggressor and forced Clarke into a close, infighting battle not preferred by the champion. But while the action was fast and furious with Gudino catching Clarke with some clean shots, many of the challenger's blows were not legitimate, coming with an open glove.

Gudino appeared slightly ahead at the halfway point, but Clarke turned the tables with good defense and by staying outside more. He also held his own in the inside skirmishes.

In the closing rounds, the champion became the aggressor and landed more frequent and telling punches. Gudino's mouthpiece was knocked out repeatedly, particularly in the last round as Clarke finished in a blaze of glory.

Many fans disagreed with the margin of victory, overlooking the fact that many of Gudino's blows missed and many others were illegal.

The semifinal, a welterweight 10-rounder between Saoul Mamby, a former world titleholder, and Reyes Antonio Cruz, was also an exciting and tactical battle as Mamby, behind early and dropped in Round Two, came back to drop Cruz with a single right to the jaw, outsmarting his man over the long haul to win a unanimous decision. An unusual controversy arose when one judge gave Mamby the maximum 100 points though he was down for an eight-count and outboxed the whole second round, in addition.

Anthony Logan, a Jamaican fighting out of Miami, ran his record to 11-0 by knocking out Jorge Almonte of Dominica in the first of a scheduled 10-round middleweight bout.

Clive Ellis of Jamaica decisioned Edwardo Luciano of Santo Domingo in a lightweight eight.

In perhaps the most exciting bout of the night, Jamaican Joe Walters, fighting out of the U.S., won an eight-round decision over Juan Batista Bissano.

GILLIE CAMPBELL

SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

▶**BARRANQUILLA—Mogador Cinema**—Former contender, comebacking Agustin "Baby" Garcia, Car-

tagena, decisioned Manuel Julio, Cartagena, in a 10-round flyweight bout to improve his record to 26-6.

Bantamweight Alvaro Mercado, Barranquilla, knocked out Victor Tejedor, Cartagena, in the third round.

In another bantamweight bout, Juan Rodriguez, Barranquilla, knocked out Robinson Garcia in the second.

Carlos Rocha, bantamweight from El Reten, Magdalena, outpointed Jose Salazar, Cartagena, in eight rounds.

Promoter: El Pulpo.
(9-11-87)

▶**SINCELEJO—Los Dinamicos Club**—Alberto Castro, former flyweight contender, TKO'd Alejandro Pastrana in just 2:50.

Pastrana was a substitute for Jorge Guevara.

Alejandro Ricardo, bantamweight, won over Fernando Franco, who abandoned the fight in the second round.

Promoter: Pintoso Box.
(10-17-87)

▶**SAN ANDRES, ISLA.—Pink Coliseum**—Rafael Pineda KO'd Panamanian Carlos Mendietta in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-round lightweight bout.

Baranquilla's Alvaro Mercado gained the vacant Colombian super flyweight championship when he knocked out Monteria's Marcial Hernandez in the fourth round.

Welterweight Victor Cordoba, Panama, stopped Horacion Perez, Colombia, in three.

Another welterweight match saw David Silva decision Jose Salinas over 10 rounds.

Middleweight Jairo Dominguez of Barranquilla knocked out Haroldo Escalona in three.
(10-23-87)

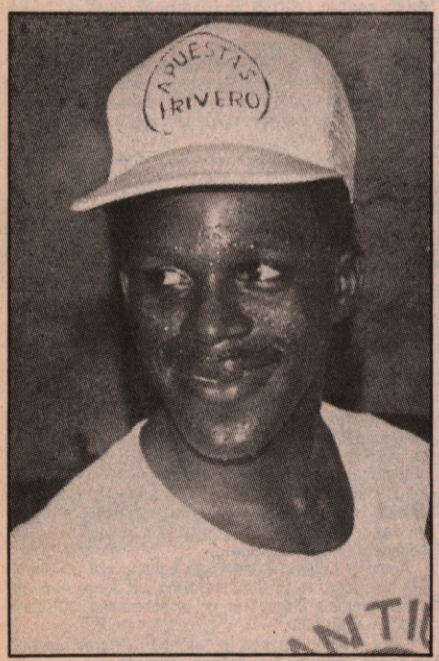

PHOTO BY SCOPELL

Colombian star Francisco Tejedor ran his streak to 18-0 (13 KOs) with a 10-round decision over Venezuela's Jose Castillo in an exciting bout which saw both men hit the deck.

▶**BARRANQUILLA—Tomas Suri Saldedo Basketball Stadium**—In an intense fight, Francisco Tejedor, Colombia, outpointed Venezuela's Jose Castillo over 10 rounds.

Tejedor, 110½, kissed the canvas in the third round when Castillo, 110½, landed a right cross to the face of the Colombian. But little by little Tejedor began to dominate, knocking down the visitor in the sixth, again in the ninth and twice more in the 10th.

The decision left Tejedor 18-0 with 13 knockouts.

Cartagena's Felipe Caceres, 132, opened the show with a two-round knockout of Barranquilla's Carmelo Salgado, 132½.

Wilson Fontalvo, 126½, San Estanislao, flattened Gonzalo Saldana, 124, Jamundi, at 1:50 of the fourth round. A left hook to the jaw put Saldana down for the full count.

Pedro Padilla, San Basilio de Palenque, 137, stopped Monteria's Jose Julio, 137, in 2:40, referee Manuel Rodriguez calling the match.

Barranquilla's Anibal Miranda, 148, TKO'd Cartagena's Claudio Salgado, 145½, in seven rounds. Miranda suffered a cut on his left cheek bone in the first.

Eder Gonzalez, 137, Barranquilla, scored a six-round decision over Cartagena's Jose Caceres, 137.

Promoter: Pugilismo.

Judges: Edgardo Schemell, Humberto Caceres, Rafael Lopez, Carlos Maria, Manuel Rodriguez & Carlos Hernandez.
(10-30-87)

▶**CIENAGA**—Agustin "Baby" Garcia knocked out Felipe Medrano in the third round of a flyweight bout.

Pedro Mendoza decisioned Cartagena's David Orozco in a six-round bantamweight match.

Welterweight Jose Bermudez knocked out Leovigildo Hernandez in five.

Bantamweight Carlos Rocha outpointed Luis Berrio over eight.
(10-30-87)

▶**SAHAGUN—Colombia Cinema**—Felipe Angulo retained his Colombian junior lightweight crown when he gained a seventh-round knockout over Cartagena's Pedro Perez.

Noel Cogollo gained the vacant Colombian flyweight title with a 10-round decision over Alfredo Lugo.
(10-30-87)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V.

GUYANA

▶**GEORGETOWN—National Sports Hall**—Local bantamweight champ Mike Parris, 115, enhanced his record to 12-1 when he asserted his authority in no uncertain manner against Jesus Bastardo of Venezuela to take a unanimous decision over 10 rounds.

The game Venezuelan, 116, was no match for Parris' speed and punching power and was completely outboxed and outpunched over the entire 10 rounds.

Judge Trevor Arno scored 100-88, judge Frank Fernandes saw it 100-87 and judge Ulric Busby called it 100-86.

Luis Garcia, 150, Venezuela, teased and taunted Wayne Harris, 154, into a 10-round brawl that had the champion of Guyana completely at sea against his unorthodox foe. The frustrated Harris just couldn't get the measure of the visitor and appeared so foolish that he was booed by the home crowd on many occasions. Bertrand Adams gave Garcia a 99-91 edge, while Eion Jardine had it 100-88 and Andrew Thorne scored it 100-90.

Joey Murray, 107, posted his second stoppage in two tries when Malcolm Darson, 119, was forced to retire at the end of the second round of their scheduled six.

Paul Allen, 132, made an auspicious pro debut with a unanimous six-round decision over Orlando Carrington, 138, who was also making his pro bow.

Colin Murray, 160, won his first start, but had to come off the deck in the second round to win a unanimous four-round verdict over Derrick Housner, 162.

Lyndon Harris, 137, winless in his first two starts, scored a unanimous four-round win over debuting Mervyn Browne, 137.

Promoter: M. Waterton Promotions.

Physicians: H.C. Hugh, Royston Anderson & Max Hanoman.

Timekeeper: Leslie Allen.

Referees: Duncan, Adams, Fernandes & Jardine.

Judges: Busby, Arno, Green, Thorne, Adams, Jardine, Duncan & Fernandes.

Announcer: Allan La Rose.
(11-29-87)

▶**NOTES:** Guyanese boxers had a rough time in a November 27 visit to Barbados as Albert Browne was TKO'd in the 10th round of a middleweight match with Edward "Yogi Bear" Neblett. Lindon Profitt dropped a unanimous decision to featherweight Anthony Williams and Gordon Carew dropping a unanimous verdict to Angus Alleyne. Guyana's Orin Moore did manage to win a unanimous decision from Anderson Benn . . . A three-day amateur tournament was held to commemorate the 53rd birthday of Prime Minister Hamilton Greene, who is an ardent boxing fan.

WILL R. BOODHOO

READ THE RING

EUROPE

BELGIUM

▶**IZEGEM**—Former European super featherweight champion Jean-Marc Renard appeared fortunate to gain an eight-round TKO victory over John Farrell in a scheduled 10-rounder.

Farrell, a southpaw, boxed superbly for the first five rounds, but an injury to his right arm at the end of the fifth made him unable to answer the bell for Round Eight. Unable to use the arm in Round Six, Farrell was warned twice for holding. He tried again in the seventh, but was ineffective and manager Brendan Ingle called a halt at the end of that frame.

On the undercard, welterweight Philippe Binante stopped Freddy Demeulenaere in the seventh round.
(11-1-87)

ROGER SODERBERG

FINLAND

▶**JYVASKYLA**—Tarmo Uusivirta, the IBF's No. 8-ranked super middleweight, returned to action after a 10-month layoff to win a unanimous 10-round decision over Britain's James Cook.

Uusivirta, fighting in his home town, appeared rusty, but still dominated. He had Cook down for a short count in Round Six, but otherwise the Finn had no chance of stopping his foe inside the distance.

On the undercard, Roland Eriksson of Sweden stopped England's Tommy Beckett in 63 seconds of a light heavyweight match. Beckett was down twice.

Debuting Finn Tom Heiskanen won a split, four-round decision over Swedish veteran welterweight Tauno Lohtander.
(10-26-87)

ROGER SODERBERG

FRANCE

▶**SAINT QUENTIN**—Alain Cuvillier stopped Jean Marc Phenieux in the second round of a battle for the French welterweight championship.

Middleweight Eric Taton stopped Jean Paul Ross in two.
(10-10-87)

▶**AMBOISE**—Mohamed Ouhmad scored an eight-round decision victory over Madjib Madjoub in a welterweight contest.
(10-10-87)

▶**CHANTILLY**—Xavier Delafontaine scored a six-round decision over Soyemi Saukana in a welterweight match.

Welterweight Mourad Mezouari won by decision in six rounds over Stephane Zaffiroff.

Another six-rounder, this one in the middleweight class, ended even, Didier Fournival and Jose Bastient sharing the decision.
(10-15-87)

▶**SAINT DENIS**—Raymond Gevia TKO'd Abdou Diane in the fourth round of a featherweight bout.
(10-23-87)

▶**GRENOBLE**—Welterweight Jean Christophe Fournier stopped Antonio Secci in six rounds.

Another welterweight bout between Carmelo Nati and Ahmed El Masnaoti ended in a six-round draw.

Franck Nicotra decisioned Jean Pierre Mariani in a six-round middleweight match.
(10-23-87)

▶**ANTIBES**—Louis Gomis, European bantamweight champion, tuned up for a possible IBF title shot against Kelvin Seabrooks with a six-round TKO of Jeff Hanna.

A welterweight bout ended in Round Seven, Frank Skouma winning by foul over Hugo Marinangeli.

French lightweight champion Karim Rabbi scored an eight-round nod over England's Peter Eubanks.

Jean-Baptiste Mendy knocked out Britain's Kevin Pritchard in the fourth round of a lightweight scrap. Mendy's left jab controlled action, and he dropped Pritchard in the first, third and fourth rounds. Finally, a right to the jaw followed by a left to the body put Pritchard away for good.

A welterweight matchup saw Genaro Leon knock out Joel Brival in the fourth round.

Unbeaten welterweight Antoine Fernandez had things all his way in stopping England's Lennie Gloster in the second round. Gloster took two standing counts before the referee finally stopped the slaughter.

(11-6-87)

▶**SAINT QUEN**—Pierre Frank Winterstein scored an eight-round decision victory over veteran American middleweight Sean Mannion.

(11-16-87)

▶**FONTENAY SOUS BOIS**—Mehdi Labdouni knocked out Mohamed Mertad in the opening round of their bantamweight matchup.

(11-21-87)

▶**SALON DE PROVENCE**—Middleweight Cherif Boubekeur decisioned Martin Camara over eight rounds.

(11-27-87)

▶**ECHIROLLES**—Middleweight Frank Nicotra scored a four-round TKO over Rachid Boukhelifa.

Welterweight Carmelo Nato won a six-round decision over Ahmed Zidoun.

(11-27-87)

▶**AUBERVILLIERS**—Welterweight Joel Dulys knocked out Soyemi Soubana in two.

(11-27-87)

▶**TOULON**—Middleweight Marc Ruocco won by decision over Mario Lavouiray in eight.

Middleweight Frederic Seillier stopped Michel Landais in five.

(11-27-87)

▶**BOURGES**—Welterweight Lexter Boucaud stopped Julien Segley in four rounds.

(11-27-87)

▶**PARIS**—Middleweight Jose Rosemain decisioned Akim Zeroual in eight.

Lofti Belkhir took a six-round nod from Amar Dahmoun in the welterweight division.

Mehdi Labdouni stopped Bruno Jobert in five of a bantamweight battle.

(11-30-87)

▶**SAINT QUEN**—Light heavyweight Jean Marc Dindin took a six-round verdict from Paul Walyns.

(11-30-87)

▶**ROUEN**—Lightweight Philippe Binante stopped Belaid Khaldi in five.

Light heavyweight Serge Bolivar knocked out Djamel Chebana in the third.

(11-30-87)

GERMANY

▶**DUSSELDORF—Philips Hall**—Benefitting from the decline of the US dollar is the German promoter who is now able to engage American fighters at low rates.

The most recent American to box on German soil was Mustafa Hamsho, who met German domestic light heavyweight champion, 23-year-old Graciano Rocchigiani, in what was termed a world title eliminator at super middleweight.

Hamsho requested and received a neutral referee, Franz Marti of Switzerland, but it helped him little for he was knocked out in 62 seconds.

The American was the first to throw punches, but Rocchigiani picked them off and in a flash landed with a left that sent Hamsho to the canvas-topped boards which have bruised so many backsides over the years. Hooks to the body and the head had the American in real trouble before he was counted out.

Howard Albert, who used to be with Emile Griffith, and Al Certo, both now with Hamsho, were flabbergasted and agreed they had underrated the German boy. Rocchigiani, who did better than Marvin Hagler, who needed 11 rounds to stop Hamsho in 1981 and three to stop him in 1985, got a standing ovation from the 3,000 partisan fans.

Before the bout, Hamsho, in an interview, said he knew of a Rocky Marciano but had never heard of Graciano Rocchigiani. No doubt, the German's name will be stuck in his mind for some time and should he forget it, he will find it in all future record books.

The blows that put Hamsho away would have knocked out any fighter in this division. Whatever the future holds for Rocchigiani, he has surely arrived on the international boxing scene and for German boxing, it's the birth of a much-needed new star. When Rocchigiani made his pro debut, Hamsho had already been boxing nine years and had had 41 bouts, but the German brought impressive credentials, 23 straight wins, through the ropes and showed Hamsho he had no chance of spoiling his record. Rocchigiani has moved into the big time, and it is imperative he keep his feet on the ground and continues to take his trade seriously.

His manager, Wilfried Sauerland, hopes to lure IBF super middleweight champion Chong-Pal Park from Korea to defend against the German at a cost estimated at DM400,000. On the same evening, Park was pounding out a two-round stoppage over Jesus Gallardo at Seoul to bring his score to 45-3, credentials that promise Rocchigiani a tough task.

Jeff Lampkin, a 26-year-old from Ohio, was the other American on this card, and he is no stranger to the German fight fan, having shared a 10-rounder with Chisanda Mutti of Zambia in 1984. Lampkin and Mutti received a standing ovation after that scrap, which was "The Fight of the Year" in this land.

Lampkin's opponent this time was another tough Zambian, 34-year-old Lotte Mwale, who methodically pounded out a 10-round decision victory in this light heavyweight affair. This dented Lampkin's record, which includes 42 starts over six years, 25 being won by KO, another five by decision. Mwale was six-time amateur champion of his country and won a gold medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games. As a pro, he decisioned Marvin Johnson in 1978, but lost a world title shot to Matthew Saad Muhammad. He defended his Commonwealth crown seven times before being dethroned by Leslie Stewart in 1985. Mwale has now had 41 bouts, losing only four. The referee was Georg Grabartz.

German domestic cruiserweight champion, 24-year-old Ralf Rocchigiani, the brother of Graciano, narrowly outpointed Chisanda Mutti in a 10-framer at heavyweight. Mutti was behind on points at the close of Round Eight, then went all-out for a KO to try and pull the fight his way. Had the German struck this form when he challenged European light heavyweight champion Alex Blanchard of Holland last year, he might now be ruling Europe. Mutti, who had been boxing six years with 21 fights at the time Rocchigiani made his debut in 1983, is 27-9-1 with 18 KOs. He tried twice for the IBF cruiserweight crown, losing to Lee Roy Murphy and Rickey Parkey. Rocchigiani, who raised his record to 26-2-3, has been promised a second shot at the European title by his manager, Ebby Thust.

Thomas Classen, who vacated his German heavyweight crown when retiring in 1986 after being stopped by Britain's Al Malcolm, made a successful comeback at age 25, outscoring Dutchman Ramon Voorn over six. Before hanging up his gloves, Classen had lost only two of 19 fights and his return is welcome for heavyweights in this country are as plentiful as suntanned Eskimos.

In the card opener, a heavyweight six-rounder, 29-year-old Mario Guedes, who was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1958 and whose Portugese parents immigrated to Germany, outscored Dutchman Simon Stubers. A left hook by Guedes sent Stubers to the canvas in Round Two. Guedes' eye was cut but his cornermen patched it up well in the interval to Round Three. Boxing for an amateur club in Germany, Guedes won 45 of 50 fights with most ending before the final bell.

In a German cruiserweight eliminator, Klaus Winter, a few days short of his 38th birthday, stopped 37-year-old Horst Schulze in the third with the towel being thrown in with 54 seconds gone in that frame. Winter was having his fourth pro bout, while Schulze has 17 wins in 25 contests.

At light heavyweight, Nelson "Alex" Alves, born to parents of Brazil in Germany, won his fifth paid start, stopping veteran southpaw Josef Kossmann, Grabartz calling a halt with 2:34 gone in Round Two after Kossmann had taken two counts.

A crowd of 2,500 was required for Sauerland to break even with his DM250,000 show, DM50,000 of which was required to bring Hamsho and his party to Germany.

Promoter: Wilfried Sauerland.
Matchmaker: Ebby Thust.
Timekeepers: Otto Hesse & Horst Borozoskowski.
Referees & Judges: Franz Marti, Georg Grabartz, Kurt Stroer & Dieter Schneider.
Physicians: Walter & Wagner.
Attendance: 3,000.

(12-5-87)

▶**MAINZ—Kurfurstliches**—Nigeria's Peter Konywache, silver medalist at the Los Angeles Olympics, ran his undefeated pro log to seven bouts, beating Yugoslavia's Marco Svagusa, who claimed 240 amateur bouts without a loss, in four frames.

The German Rocchigiani brothers both won eight-rounders and European title shots and even world-title eliminators are being promised by their handlers. Graciano, the 23-year-old German light heavyweight champion, outscored Dutchman John Held to boost his undefeated string to 22 fights. Held, who has been boxing for two years, suffered his second loss in 10 starts.

Ralf, one year older than Graciano and holder of the domestic cruiserweight crown, outscored 30-year-old Briton Tommy Taylor. In Round Four, the top rope gave way and both fell out of the ring. After nearly an hour's worth of repairs, the bout continued, with the German finishing the last three rounds strong. Taylor was in front in the early going and his manager, Ron Gray, thought he should have gotten the nod. Gray also protested the continuation of the bout after the lengthy delay, saying the match should have been declared no contest. Taylor needed three stitches for a cut eye. Ralf has now lost just twice in 25 outings.

Southpaw Musonda Chunuga, a 23-year-old middleweight, won his eight-rounder over 27-year-old Tony Bawa of Ghana.

Jose Verela made a successful comeback, knocking out Dutch opponent John van Elteren with 77 seconds gone in the third round. Varela, Spanish born but now a German national, suffered his only loss in 27 fights last April when Spain's Alfonso Redondo took his European welterweight title.

Promoter: Ebby Thust.
Officials: Krosch, Stroer & Hahn.
Attendance: 500.

(10-30-87)

▶**HOF—Freiheitshalle**—Knut Blin, the 19-year-old German chasing the European heavyweight title his father, Jurgin, held years ago, knocked out 33-year-old Mirko Bogdanovic of Yugoslavia in three rounds.

In an all-German light heavyweight affair, Klaus Winter scored a three-round knockout of Hans Gimborn.

Heavyweight Mario Guedes won by decision over Yugoslavia's Mikan Popovic.

Germany's Young Pipa is now 8-0 after beating Yugoslavia's Celjko Trsan, who retired with an injured hand between rounds four and five. Trsan was decked by a body blow in the third.

Two German domestic champions, Andreas Prox, middleweight, and Konny Mittermeir, light welter, made successful defenses.

Prox decisioned Mike Wissenbach over 10 rounds in one of the best title fights seen in this country in years. This was the third meeting between the two and a fourth engagement is a must.

The 26-year-old Mittermeir knocked out his challenger, Matthias Wirth, in the second frame.

The last professional card here was March 28, 1948.

Promoter: Erich Frass.
Matchmakers: Gerd Welz & Jean Marcel Nartz.
Officials: Ellensohn, Fischer, Grabartz & Hahn.
Attendance: 850.

(10-30-87)

▶**PADERBORN—Maspherhalle**—German heavyweight champion Manfred Jasmann retained his title when challenger Werner Pelz retired in the interval prior to Round Nine.

Jasmann had previously won a decision over Pelz.

In a heavyweight bout between two locals, Walter Eberling decisioned Andreas Schweiger in four rounds.

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WORLD RATINGS
BY THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION
(As of December, 1987)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Mike Tyson (US)
1. Trevor Berbick (US)
2. Carl Williams (US)
3. Tony Tucker (US)
4. Frank Bruno (England)
5. James Douglas (US)
6. Orlin Norris (US)
7. Tony Tubbs (US)
8. Tim Witherspoon (US)
9. Francesco Damiani (Italy)
10. Adilson Rodriguez (Brazil)
11. Tyrell Biggs (US)
12. Willie de Wit (Canada)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champion
Evander Holyfield (US)
1. Dwight Qawi (US)
2. Anthony Witherspoon (US)
3. Bert Cooper (US)
4. Sherman Griffin (US)
5. Taoufik Balbouli (France)
6. Bash Ali (US)
7. Patrick Lumumba (Kenya)
8. Jose Flores (Uruguay)
9. Sammy Reeson (England)
10. Tony Fulilangi (Tonga)
11. Daniel Netto (Argentina)
12. Glenn McCrory (England)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Charles Williams (US)
1. Bobby Czyz (US)
2. Nestor Giovannini (Argentina)
3. Anthony Willis (US)
4. Chris Reid (US)
5. Uriah Grant (US)
6. Rufino Angulo (France)
7. Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)
8. Blaine Longsden (England)
9. Joe Lasisi (Nigeria)
10. Willy Featherstone (Canada)
11. Tom Collins (England)
12. Alex Blanchard (Holland)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)
1. Lindell Holmes (US)
2. Vincent Boulware (US)
3. Luigi Minchillo (Italy)
4. Dario Mattioni (Argentina)
5. Nick Walker (US)
6. Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)
7. Sanderline Williams (US)
8. Tarmo Uusivirta (Finland)
9. Lenny LaPaglia (US)
10. Graciano Rocchigiani (Germany)
11. Mustafa Hamsho (US)
12. Doug Sam (Australia)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Frank Tate (US)
1. Marvin Hagler (US)
2. Michael Olajide (Canada)
3. Michael Nunn (US)
4. Herol Graham (England)
5. Doug DeWitt (US)
6. Mark Janssen (Australia)
7. Tony Sibson (England)
8. Frank Winterstein (Germany)
9. Iran Barkley (US)
10. Roberto Duran (Panama)
11. Mike McCallum (US)
12. Jose Quinones (Puerto Rico)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Matthew Hilton (Canada)
1. Buster Drayton (US)
2. Robert Hines (US)
3. Troy Waters (Australia)
4. Carlos Santos (Puerto Rico)
5. Donald Curry (US)
6. John Jackson (US)
7. Francisco DeJesus (Brazil)
8. Said Skouma (France)
9. Darrin Van Horn (US)
10. Felipe Nino (Panama)
11. In-Chul Baek (Korea)
12. Lupe Aquino (US)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Simon Brown (US)
2. Tyrone Trice (US)
3. Lloyd Honeyghan (England)
4. Yun-Kil Chung (Korea)
5. Rollin Williams (US)
6. Tomas Molinares (Colombia)
7. Mark Breland (US)
8. Maurice Blocker (US)
9. Felipe Canela (US)
10. Bobby Joe Young (US)
11. Tommy Ayers (US)
12. Al Long (US)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Frankie Warren (US)
2. Buddy McGirt (US)
3. Jong Jung Pacquing (Philippines)
4. Joe Manley (US)
5. Meldrick Taylor (US)
6. Harold Brazier (US)
7. Genaro Leon (Mexico)
8. Sang-Ho Lee (Korea)
9. Reyes Cruz (Dominican Republic)
10. John Meekins (US)
11. Hugo Hernandez (Argentina)
12. Wilf Gentzen (Australia)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Vinny Pazienza (US)
1. Greg Haugen (US)
2. Pernell Whitaker (US)
3. Angel Hernandez (Puerto Rico)
4. Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)
5. Amancio Castro (Colombia)
6. Fred Pendleton (US)
7. Gert Bo Jacobsen (Denmark)
8. John Duplessis (US)
9. Primo Ramos (Mexico)
10. Sakad Petchyindee (Thailand)
11. Frankie Randall (US)
12. Terrence Alli (US)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Rocky Lockridge (US)
1. Harold Knight (US)
2. Jim McDonnell (England)
3. Pulo Sugaray (Indonesia)
4. Mario Miranda (Colombia)
5. Tomas DaCruz (Brazil)
6. Salvatore Bottiglieri (Italy)
7. Tony Lopez (US)
8. Ariel Duran (Philippines)
9. Tyrone Jackson (US)
10. Felipe Orozco (Colombia)
11. Geron Porras (Philippines)
12. Jean Baptiste Mendy (France)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Antonio Rivera (Puerto Rico)
1. Kwon Chul (Korea)
2. Calvin Grove (US)
3. Tyrone Downes (Trinidad)
4. Lupe Suarez (US)
5. Hector Lopez (US)
6. Victor Callejas (Puerto Rico)
7. Mauricio Stecca (Italy)
8. Jean Marc Renard (Belgium)
9. Javier Marquez (Mexico)
10. Alexander Wassa (Indonesia)
11. Jae-Yong Hwang (Korea)
12. Jamie Polo (Colombia)

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Seung-Hoon Lee (Korea)
1. Moises Fuentes (Colombia)
2. Jose Sanabria (US)
3. Luis Mendoza (Colombia)
4. Samart Payakaroon (Thailand)
5. Jesse Benavides (US)
6. Daniel Blanco (Colombia)
7. Valerio Nati (Italy)
8. James Pipps (US)
9. Aaron Lopez (US)
10. Ruben Palacio (Colombia)
11. Jorge Diaz (US)
12. Loris Stecca (Italy)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Kelvin Seabrooks (US)
1. Thierry Jacob (France)
2. Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)
3. Jimmy Navarro (US)
4. Luis Gomis (France)
5. Gaby Canizales (US)
6. Ernie Cantaluna (Philippines)
7. Fabrice Benichou (France)
8. Miguel Maturana (Colombia)
9. Raul Perez (Mexico)
10. Ezequiel Hernandez (Colombia)
11. Wiem Sapulete (Indonesia)
12. Lucio Lopez (Argentina)

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Ely Pical (Indonesia)
1. Raul Diaz (Colombia)
2. Ki-Chang Kim (Korea)
3. Juan Polo (Colombia)
4. Tae-Il Chang (Korea)
5. Francisco Alvarez (Colombia)
6. Cesar Polanco (Dominican Republic)
7. Mauro Diaz (Mexico)
8. Gilberto Roman (Mexico)
9. Luis Curtis (US)
10. Pat Bracero (Philippines)
11. Soon-Chun Kwon (Korea)
12. Dong-Chung Lee (Korea)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Chang-Ho Choi (Korea)
1. Rolando Bohol (Philippines)
2. Cho-Woon Park (Korea)
3. Duke McKenzie (England)
4. Bi-Wong Chung (Korea)
5. Dodie Penalosa (Philippines)
6. Elvis Alvarez (Colombia)
7. Ramon Medal (US)
8. Thanosak Singbobe (Thailand)
9. Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Republic)
10. Mauricio Bernal (Colombia)
11. Adrian Roman (Argentina)
12. Javier Lucas (Mexico)

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Jum-Hwan Choi (Korea)
1. Isidro Perez (Mexico)
2. Mario Demarco (Argentina)
3. Sonny Vidal (Philippines)
4. Rudolfo Alvarado (Mexico)
5. Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)
6. Azadin Anhar (Indonesia)
7. Jorge Cano (Mexico)
8. Toribio Riascos (Colombia)
9. Virgillo Chifundo (Panama)
10. Tacy Macalos (Philippines)
11. Wilbaldo Salazar (Mexico)
12. Humberto Gonzales (Mexico)

MINI FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Kuyung-Yon Lee (Korea)
1. Boy Lucas (Philippines)
2. Samuth Sithnarvepol (Thailand)
3. Eric Chavez (Philippines)
4. Trang Bunlerd (Thailand)
5. Nico Thomas (Indonesia)
6. Sang-Hyun Han (Korea)
7. John Arief (Indonesia)
8. Ben Sorthanikul (Thailand)
9. Nana Suhana (Indonesia)
10. Roy Thompson (Panama)
11. Rolando Protacio (Philippines)
12. Julius Leojan (Indonesia)

German welterweight Marco Unverdruss outpointed Belgium's Robert Taton over six.

Tansania middleweight Baxon Haule scored a six-round decision over Belgium's Eric Taton. Taton scored a major upset in September, beating Edmondo Buttiglione on a third-round retirement.

Turkish middleweight Nyazi Aytekin outscored Horace Fleory, a locally based southpaw Briton, over six rounds.

German heavyweight hope Kalle Heistermann won an all-action six-rounder on points over Belgium's Yves Messieur, who in September became champion of his country with a five-round KO over Sergio Rosio.

Promoter: AS Boxteam Nordhessen.

Matchmakers: Olaf Schroder & H.J. Pedersen.

Attendance: 800.

(10-31-87)

▶**NOTES:** Three promotions with as many championship bouts in the final two days of October is not bad going for a country that has only a handful of professional boxers to call on. Crowds were small, but the boxing was good and encouraging for the local promoters.

▶**RUSSELSHEIM—Walter-Kobel Hall**—Americans Gary Gamble and Hardy Jones lost to German champions Rene Weller and Jose Varela, respectively, to highlight this show.

The 23-year-old Gamble, though smaller than Weller, was still there at the end of the eight-rounder but had no real chance of beating Weller, who has lost just once in 44 starts.

Weller's defeat came on a cut stoppage to Dane Gert Bo Jacobsen, costing Weller his European lightweight championship in 1986. Weller was also cut in several of his fights this year, but it seemed he would come out of this one clean. However, it was not to be as a collision of heads in the final minute created a cut over his left eye.

Those collecting a beefburger and a can of beer probably missed the debut of Jones, which lasted just 110 seconds. A short left to the chin from the southpaw Varela decked the American and, though he made it to his feet, he was counted out by German referee Sigi Hahn.

Varela, whose only defeat in 29 bouts came in losing his European welterweight crown to Alfonso Redondo of Spain in April, has now signed on with a new manager, Ebby Thust, who promises not only a shot at the European crown, but a world title shot, providing, of course, that Varela's comeback continues to be successful.

Welterweight Musenda Chinuga suffered his first loss in 28 bouts as Samuel Serunjogi of Uganda took a decision after eight rounds. Each fighter took two counts. Chinuga, of Zambia, had won 26 previous starts inside the distance.

Welterweight Tony Bawa, Ghana, beat German super featherweight champion, southpaw Theo Hauser, the towel being thrown in with 20 seconds remaining in Round Four. The German, who has been inactive of late, had difficulty getting his stride and was ring rusty. It was the 13th fight of each boxer's career, and Hauser was the unlucky one.

Commonwealth super featherweight champion Johnny Sichula, Zambia, brought his score to 22 wins in 23 tries by halting Arturo Hernandez, Mexico, in Round Four when referee Hahn decided Hernandez had no further chance.

Lightweight Peter Konywachie, Nigerian silver medalist at the Los Angeles Olympics, beat German Georg Vlachos, a late substitute for Frenchman Farid Benredjed, in three frames.

George Francis, probably Britain's best trainer and cornerman, was imported to work with Weller and Sichula by their manager, Wilfried Sauerland.

Promoter: Hessen Box Team.

Matchmaker: Ebby Thust.

Referees & Judges: Norbert Krosch, Michael Fischer & Sigi Hahn.

Physicians: Hollik & Wagner.

Attendance: 1,250.

(11-27-87)

JACK TREE

ITALY

▶**CAGLIARI**—Louis Gomis, 117¼, took a unanimous, 12-round decision over Italy's Maurizio Lupino, 118, to retain his European bantamweight championship.

Gomis, making his second defense, proved far too good for Lupino, though the Italian gave him a good test.

Judge Arsene Klopp of Luxemburg scored 120-113, with Spanish judge Juan Carrasco seeing it 119-115.

English referee John Coyle called it 117-112.

On the undercard, Luigi Minchillo, 161, posted an eight-round decision over Mike Peoples, 161.

Guillermo Zuniga Mosquera, 142¾, decisioned Hamda Rebai, 143¼, over four.

Gianni Di Napoli, 128½, decisioned Jellel Mastouri, 124¼, over four.

Roberto Francheschi, 129½, won a six-round decision over Kemiss Gueblaoui, 134½.

(10-14-87)

▶**SAN GAVINO**—Romolo Casamonica, 147, stopped Luciano Navarra, 146½, when Navarra retired in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-rounder for the Italian championship.

Angelo Sassu decisioned Michele La Fratta in a six-round lightweight bout.

(10-17-87)

▶**MODENA**—Alessandro Scapecchi won an eight-round decision over Rosario Casartelli in a welterweight scrap.

Luigi La Grasta decisioned Habib Hammami over six in another welterweight bout.

(10-24-87)

▶**BERGAMO**—Angelo Rottoli, 194, stopped American Keith Vining in the sixth round.

Lightweight Paziente Adobati took a six-round decision over Mwilambwe Tshikala.

Efrem Calamati won on a foul by Belaid Khaldi in the fourth round of a lightweight go.

Light heavyweight Mauro Galvano won by TKO in the fourth round when Michel Moukouri was cut and unable to continue.

Middleweight Francesco Dell'Aquila decisioned Michele Renna over six.

(10-31-87)

▶**ROVIGO**—Light heavyweight Alberto Castellacci knocked out Khalid Abdelazil in three.

Middleweight Antonio Giaciglio was awarded a six-round win over Sergio Bologna, who was disqualified for fouling.

(10-31-87)

▶**MERANO**—Welterweight Alessandro Duran decisioned Marco Cipollini over six.

Giovanni Marchesini won by foul in the fifth round of a light heavyweight match with Massimiliano Duran.

Jose Luis Limpio decisioned Leon Bamba in a six-round welterweight match.

(11-6-87)

▶**SALERNO**—Vincenzo Limatola stopped Carlo Quintano on cuts in the ninth round of a bout for the Italian featherweight championship. Each weighed 126.

(11-7-87)

▶**TREZZANO SUL NAVIGLIO**—Valerio Nati, 126½, knocked out Jose Hernandez, 130½, in the first round.

Stefano Cassi, 133¾, stopped Mwilambwe Tshikala, 131, in five.

Rafael Grasso, 131, scored a six-round decision over Angelo Sassu, 128½.

Giuseppe Perrella, 132, stopped Alfredo Racano, 132, in three.

Michel La Fratta, 130, notched a six-round TKO over Hadair Nourredine.

(11-21-87)

▶**TORINO**—Bruno Vottero scored a six-round decision over Fridar Mokhtar in a welterweight matchup.

(11-21-87)

▶**AVEZZANO**—Middleweight Roberto Rosini won a six-round verdict over Sergio Bologna.

(11-21-87)

▶**BERGAMO**—Lightweight Efrem Calamati won an eight-round decision over Jose Maillot.

Featherweight Paziente Addobati won by decision in six over Luigi Juliano.

Featherweight Freddy Cruz scored a six-round decision over Abder El Kinana.

Roberto Chiarucci took a six-round nod from Inino Tonino Wa Bolamba in a middleweight match.

Francesco Dell'Aquila won by decision in six over Abderahim Laachira in another middleweight bout.

(11-21-87)

▶**MONTECATINI**—Lightweight Piero Morello decisioned Jose Garcia over eight.

In another eight-rounder, middleweight Andrea Scardigli decisioned Eric Taton.

Welterweight Michele Di Luisa took a six-round verdict from Hamda Rebai.

(11-21-87)

▶**ORISTANO**—Efisio Galici knocked out Eduardo Batista in the second round of a WBC international championship bout. Galici weighed 147, one pound more than Batista.

Kamel Bou-Ali, 132½, stopped Luis Del Valele Rodriguez, 129½, in the second.

Maurizio Stecca, 129½, knocked out Manuel Rodriguez, 129½, in the seventh.

Loris Stecca, 126¾, was declared winner by foul in the fourth round of his bout with Cesar Almonte, 122.

Kemais Gueblaoui, 129½, retired, giving Roberto Franceschi, 133, a TKO win in three.

(11-28-87)

▶**GIUSEPPE VESUVIANO**—Nino La Rocca knocked out Abdelhafid Arik in the opening round of their welterweight match.

Giovanni De Marco captured a 12-round decision over Raul Abeldano in a match for the WBC international junior middleweight championship.

Ciro De Leva decisioned Ley Umba Sengy in an eight-round featherweight go.

Lightweight Alfredo Raininger decisioned Luigi La Grasta over eight.

(12-2-87)

▶**NOTES:** The European Boxing Union has announced it is forbidden for WBC international champions, formerly junior world champions, to hold European championships.

UNITED KINGDOM

▶**LONDON—National Sporting Club**—Jess Harding, Potters Bar, won his heavyweight bout by stopping Chris Harbourne, Birmingham, referee Sid Nathan intervening in Round Four of a scheduled eight with Harbourne under pressure.

Brian Nickels, Kilburn, outpointed Midlands lightweight champion Ray Newby over eight twos.

Kesem Clayton, 154, Coventry, stopped Andy Catesby, 155, Bournemouth, referee Nathan calling a halt at 1:25 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos with Catesby under pressure.

Paul Seddon, Bedworth, drew with Ron Shinkwin, Boreham Wood, over six twos.

(10-12-87)

▶**SOUTHEND—20th Century Sporting Club**—Jason Baxter, 164, Leicester, drew with Steve McCarthy, 166, Southampton, over six twos. Referee Mike Jacobs.

Gary Pemberton, 155, Newport, stopped Danny Shinkwin, 155, referee Jacobs calling a halt in Round Two of a scheduled six twos after Shinkwin had been down.

Mark Goult, 125, Norwich, stopped Billy Barton, Blaengarw, 123, referee Tony Walker stopping matters in Round Five of a scheduled six twos when Barton sustained an eye injury.

Steve King, 132, kayoed Wayne Goult, 133, Norwich, in Round Two. Referee Tony Walker. A scheduled six.

(10-6-87)

▶**LONDON—Bow Theatre**—Johnny Melfah, 163, Gloucester, stopped Southern Area champion Tony Burke, 165¼, referee Dave Parris intervening in Round Two of a scheduled eight after Burke had been down three times.

Ivan Joseph, 208½, Hackney, kayoed Cordwell Hylton, 185½, Walsall, in Round Six of a scheduled eight twos. Referee Dave Parris.

Dave Brosnan, 149, Eltham, didn't lose a round in outpointing Brian Butler, West Ham-based Australian, referee Parris scoring it 40-38½ after four.

Chris Galloway, 177½, Penge, outpointed Billy Sim, 176½, Dagenham, referee Walker casting it 79-78 after eight twos.

Branko Pavlovic, 186¼, Bedford, stopped Derek Myers, 193, Penge, referee Walker intervening in Round Three of a scheduled four with Myers under pressure.

Roy Deeble, 120½, Dagenham, narrowly outpointed Tony Heath, 124, Loughborough, referee Walker casting it 39½-39 after four.

(10-12-87)

▶**SHEFFIELD—City Hall Ballroom**—Ian Bayliss, 156, Preston, won the vacant Central Area middleweight title by stopping Paul Smith, 158½, Sheffield, referee Brian Hogg intervening at 1:16 of Round Three in a scheduled 10 after Smith had been down from a left hook.

Dean Binch, 136, Sheffield, outpointed Robert Newbiggin, 142, Southport, referee Phil Cowsill scoring it 59½-58 after six twos.

Paul Jones, 143, Sheffield, outpointed debutant Pat Durkin, 147, Southport, not losing a round on referee Cowsill's card of 40-38½ after four twos.

(10-28-87)

▶**LONDON—York Hall**—Derrick Williams, 229, Battersea, stopped John Westgarth, 213½, Newcastle, referee Larry O'Connell intervening at 2:00 of Round Seven after Westgarth had been down three times, all from right hands.

Neil Patterson, 152, Darlington, stopped Johnny Andrews, 149½, Stepney, referee O'Connell calling a halt at 1:12 of Round Four in a scheduled eight after Andrews had been floored twice.

Derek Angel, 187¼, Stockwell, stopped Lennie Howard, 191½, Chelmsford, referee Jack Snipe intervening at 1:33 of Round Five after Howard had been down and was under pressure. A scheduled eight twos.

Bobby Frankham, 176½, Reading, outpointed Byron Pullen, 174, Newport, referee Snipe scoring it 60-57½ after six, indicating that Frankham hadn't lost a round.

Dusty Miller, 147, Islington, stopped Johnny Nanton, 147, Walworth, referee O'Connor halting matters at 1:12 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos with Nanton under pressure.

Debutant Randy B. Powell, 174¾, Brockley, stopped Nigel Prickett, 170, Plymouth, referee Snipe intervening at 1:15 of Round One in a scheduled six twos with Prickett under pressure.

Debutant Tony Gibbs, 146, Barking, outpointed Barry Messam, 148, Nottingham, referee Snipe casting it 59½-58½ after six twos. Messam was down at the end of Round One.

(10-8-87)

▶**WINDSOR—Blazers**—Angel Beltre, 138½, Dominican Republic, outpointed Commonwealth lightweight champion Mo Hussein, 135½, referee Miles Jacobs scoring it 98½-97 after 10.

George Collins, 147, Yateley, made it 27 wins in a row by knocking out Kehevan Johnson, 149, of America in Round Two with a left hook. Collins was marked by the left eye in Round One and Johnson's nose bled in Round Two.

Nigel Benn, 161, West Ham, gained his ninth quick win by stopping Russel Barker, Nottingham, referee Jacobs not bothering to count after Barker had been floored by a right hook. Time, 79 seconds of a scheduled six.

Denys Cronis, Welsh middleweight champion, 164, kayoed American Leon Morris, 166½, at 2:14 of Round One in a scheduled six with a right to the head. Referee Mike Jacobs.

Damien Denny, 148, Belfast, outpointed Chris Richards, 151, Nottingham, referee Nick White scoring it 59½-58 after six twos.

Brian Robinson, 156½, didn't lose a round in outpointing American Ray Coleman, 149½, referee White casting it 60-58 after six twos.

Tony Collins, 148½, won every round in outpointing American Bernard Matthews, 146, referee White scoring it 40-38 after four twos. Matthews was down in Round Two.

(10-13-87)

▶**BIRMINGHAM—Albany Hotel**—Tony Swift, 138, Solihull, made it 11 in a row by outpointing Kevin Plant, 139, Rotherham, not losing a round on referee Jim Pridding's scorecard of 80-78 after eight.

Peter Till, 138, Walsall, outpointed Dean Bramhald, 138, Doncaster, referee Pridding scoring it 79½-78½ after eight twos. Bramhald was down in Round Two and was injured by both eyes.

Debutant Jimmy Vincent, 124, Birmingham, outpointed Roy Williams, Merthyr, not losing a round with referee Brian Arnott casting it 60-58 after six twos.

Busy Steve Phillips, 140, Sheffield, gained his third victory within 12 days by outpointing Andy Pybus, 140, Birmingham, not losing a round on referee Arnott's card

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of 40-38½ after four twos.
(10-19-87)

▶**NOTTINGHAM—International Sporting Club**—Gary Maxwell, 129, outpointed Nigel Haddock, 126, Cardiff, John Keane (who refereed every bout) scoring it 79½-77½ after eight.

Tony Borg, 130½, Cardiff, outpointed Ray Newby, 134, Nottingham, scoreline 79½-78 after eight. Newby was cut by the right eye.

Harry Metham, 141, Nottingham, stopped Martin Bolton, 143¾, the intervention coming in Round Five when Bolton was cut by the right eye. Bolton was down earlier in the round.

Larry Kelly, 134, Doncaster, kayoed Rocky Lester, 140, Leicester, in 0:53 of Round Four of a scheduled six with a right to the chin.
(10-19-87)

▶**BELFAST—Ulster Hall**—Paul Hodkinson, Kirkby, kayoed Tomas Arguello, 126¾, Panama, at 2:40 of Round Six in a scheduled eight with a left hook. When they met previously in Panama, the result was a draw, the only blot on Paul's pro record. He looks like a fine prospect.

Eaon McAuley, 134½, Belfast, stopped Nick Lucas, 13, Swindon, the intervention coming at 1:47 of Round Three after Lucas had been down twice.

Andy Holligan, 139½, Liverpool, outpointed Glyn Rhodes, 142, Sheffield, referee Barney Wilson (who took charge of all contests) scoring it 59½-57 after six. Rhodes was down in Round Four and many thought he had been counted out. It was Holligan's debut.

Carl Parry, 126½, Swansea, outpointed Alan McCullough, 123½, Belfast, scoreline 59-58 after six twos.

Sam Storey, 163½, Belfast, outpointed Seamus Casey, 166, Alfreton, with Casey down in round Three of a six-rounder.

▶**GLASGOW—St. Andrews Sporting Club**—Ronnie Carroll, 118½, Glasgow, drew with Nigel Crook, 120¼, over eight. Referee Billy Rafferty.

Jim Kelly, 146½, Wishaw, stopped Dave Kettlewell, 144½, Leeds, referee Len Mullen intervening at 0:57 of Round One in a scheduled six twos.

Steve Williams, 174½, remained unbeaten after outpointing Winston Burnett, 168, Cardiff, scoreline 59½-58. This confirmed a previous win.

Peter (brother of Nigel) Crook, 141, Chorley, outpointed John Mullen, 143, Irvine, referee Rafferty casting it 79½-77 after eight twos.
(10-19-87)

▶**LONDON-White Hart Lane Football Ground, Tottenham**—Supports to Bruno vs. Bugner: Mark Kaylor, 175, former British and Commonwealth middleweight champion, continued his light heavyweight career by stopping American Jamie Howe, 174½, referee Roy Francis intervening at 2:30 of Round Four when Howe was cut by the right eye. Kaylor looked technically superior, but Howe showed plenty of aggression, and it looked to be developing into a good scrap.

Dave Taylor, 143½, America, outpointed the previously undefeated Mickey Hughes, 148, referee Reg Thompson scoring it 78½-77½ after eight.

Gary Mason, 247, kept his unbeaten certificate by stopping Andy Gerrard, Risca, 214, referee Francis calling a halt at 1:55 of Round Six, much to the annoyance of Gerrard, who hadn't been off his feet.

Mark Reafer, 132½, stopped Wayne Weekes, 132½ Bellingham, referee Thompson intervening in the opening round after Weekes had been down twice.

American Anthony Witherspoon, 194½, stopped Alek Penarski, 198, Alfreton, referee Thompson calling a halt at 1:40 of Round One in a scheduled six when Penarski went down on one knee and claimed that a thumb had caught him in the eye.

Former British light welterweight champion Tony Laing, 138½, won the vacant Commonwealth crown by stopping Zambian David Chibuye, 138½, referee Johnny Coyle halting the action at 1:59 of Round 11 of a scheduled 12 when Chibuye was cut by the right eye, which was completely closed. He also bled from the nose. The Zambian was down in Round One from a right to the head.
(10-24-87)

▶**STOKE—Kings Hall**—After two months inactivity, British featherweight champion Robert Dickie, 128, beat Midlands bantamweight champion Rocky Lawlor, 126, who was disqualified by referee Paul Thomas at 1:41 of Round Two after being issued several warnings for different offenses.

Dutchman Johnny Held, 175, narrowly outpointed Noel Magee, 176, referee Thomas scoring it 79-78½ after eight. Magee thus lost his unbeaten record.

John Ashton, 151, Alfreton, gained a disputed points verdict over Wally Swift, Solihull, 152, referee Terry O'Connor casting it 79-78½ after eight. This avenged a previous defeat.

Pat Barrett, 136, Manchester, outpointed Michael Howard, 135, Nottingham, referee O'Connor casting it 39-38½ after four.

Billy Cawley, 135, Birmingham, drew with Anthony Smith, 138, Crewe, over four. Referee Terry O'Connor.
(10-20-87)

▶**LONDON—National Sporting Club**—Johnny Graham, 173, Paddington, outpointed Alan Baptiste, 176, Luton, referee Dave Parris scoring it 78½-77½ after eight.

After three years inactivity, Dave George, 117¾, Swansea, outpointed Kevin Downer, 120, Luton, referee Nick White calling it 79½-77 after eight twos.

John Dickson, 137¾, Larkhall, outpointed Kevin Plant, 139, Doncaster, referee Parris's card showing 59½-58 after six.

Kevin Thompson, 151, Dudley, outpointed Dusty Miller, 152, Stoke Newington, referee White scoring it 40-39 after four.
(10-26-87)

▶**BIRMINGHAM—Arden Sporting Club**—George Jones, 129, Telford, outpointed Nigel Senior, Nottingham, referee John Coyle scoring it 79-77 over eight.

Debutant Mike Howell, Nottingham, kayoed another first-timer in Tony Greenwood, Leicester, the end coming in Round Two of a scheduled lightweight six twos.

Paul Kennedy, Newcastle, didn't lose a round in outpointing debutant Steve Taggart, Birmingham, scoreline 60-57½ after six.
(9-28-87)

▶**GLASGOW—Plaza Ballroom**—Tommy McCallum, 149¾, Edinburgh, won the vacant Scottish light middleweight title by narrowly outpointing Dave Douglas, 150, Larkhall, referee Billy Rafferty scoring it 98½-98 after 10. Both men were former holders of the Scottish welterweight title. Douglas was down in Round Seven.

Brian Holmes, 120, Glasgow, didn't lose a round in outpointing Kid Sumaila, Ghana, 125½, referee Rafferty casting it 80-76½ after eight twos.

Donnie Hood, 121, Glasgow, also didn't lose a round in outpointing Jimmy Lee, 117, referee Arnold Bryson casting it 80-76½ after eight twos.

Michael McDermott, 141, Coleraine, stopped Derek Moonie, 144, Kirkcaldy, referee Bryson intervening at 1:56 of Round One in a scheduled six twos after Moonie had been down.

Debutant Will Strike, 115, Irvine, stopped Tony Smith, 117½, Burnley, referee Bryson calling a halt at 1:28 of Round Five after Smith had been floored.

John Mullen, 144, Irvine, didn't lose a round in outpointing Mike McKenzie, 148, Perth, scoreline 60-58½ after six.
(10-26-87)

▶**MANCHESTER—Anglo American Sporting Club**—Ray Taylor, 142, Great Harwood, outpointed Junaid Musah, 141, Ghana, referee Harry Warner scoring it 80-77½ after eight twos and indicating that Taylor hadn't lost a round.

Phillip Nurse, 140, Manchester, stopped debutant Whipper Dean, 140, Norwich, referee Keith Garner intervening at 1:15 of the sixth and final (two-min.) round with Nurse under pressure.

Davy Croft, 138, Doncaster, outpointed David Hall, 142, Manchester, referee Garner casting it 59½-58 after six twos.

Mark Kelly, 136, outpointed Roy Doyle, 132, Manchester, referee Warner's card showing 59½-58½ after six twos.
(11-2-87)

▶**BRIGHTON—Corn Exchange**—Ritchie Foster, 129, Dublin, stopped Welshman Andy Deabrue, 128, referee Roy Francis intervening at 1:38 of Round Five in a scheduled eight with Deabrue under pressure.

Tyrone Monaghan, 150, Abingdon, drew with Mel Justin, 147, Sheffield, over six. Monaghan was down in Round One from a right hook, but came back well.

Lou Ayres, 154, Mitcham, outpointed Steve Hustable, Barnstaple, referee Jack Snipe casting it 59½-57½ after six twos.

Roger Silsby, 160½, Brighton, made a successful debut by outpointing Gerald Richardson, 155, Sheffield, referee Francis casting it 59½-58½ after six. Richardson was down in Round Three from a right hook.
(10-28-87)

▶**STOKE-ON-TRENT—European Sporting Club**—Crawford Ashley, 177, Leeds, stopped Ray Thomas, 175½, referee Jim Pridding intervening at 1:25 of Round One in a scheduled eight twos after Thomas had been down.

READ THE RING

Des Gargano, 122½, Manchester, stopped Paul Thornton, 126, Sheffield, referee Pridding calling a halt at 1:51 of the sixth and final (two-min.) round with Thornton, who was making his debut, under pressure.

Anthony Smith, 137, Crewe, drew with Billy Cawley, 133, Birmingham, over six twos. They had previously drawn over four threes. Referee Jim Pridding.

Barry Messam, 150, Nottingham, stopped Mike Snagg, 149½, Liverpool, referee Pridding calling a halt at 1:31 of Round Two with Snagg under pressure. Messam was down in Round One.
(10-28-87)

▶**SWANSEA—Mayfair Suite**—Keith Parry, 133, won the Welsh lightweight title by stopping Andy Williams, 135, Garndiffaith, referee Adrian Morgan intervening in Round Eight of a scheduled 10 after Williams had been down. He was also floored in Round One.

Mark Pearce, 138, Cardiff, drew with Mike Russell, 137, Plymouth, over six twos. Referee Mike Heatherwick.

Gary Pemberton, 157, Cardiff, outpointed the previously unbeaten Mark Howell, 152, Nottingham, scoreline 59½-58 after six twos.

Frank McCord, 150, Swansea, beat Glyn Mitchell, 148, Plymouth, who retired with a discolated shoulder in Round Two of a scheduled eight twos.

Steve King, 129, Betts, outpointed Mike Chapman, 130, referee Heatherwick scoring it 59½-58½ after six twos.
(10-28-87)

▶**WEMBLEY—Grand Hall**—Supports to Honeyghan-Vaca: Chris Pyatt, 155¾, didn't lose a round in outpointing Zimbabwe's Gilbert Josamu, 155½, referee Sid Nathan scoring it 80-76½ after eight.

David Dent, 146, Camden Town, made it 16 in a row by stopping American Ty Horne, 149½, referee Nathan intervening at 2:03 of Round Four in a scheduled eight with Horne under pressure.

Michael Watson, 160½, Islington, made it 13 wins in 14 bouts by stopping American Sam Houston, 158¼ in Round Two of a scheduled eight, referee Nathan calling a halt at 1:18 of a scheduled eight after Houston had been decked by a right hand. The referee didn't bother to take up the count.

Rod Douglas, Beckton, kayoed Johnny Elliot, Telford, 167, at 1:59 of Round Three in a scheduled six. Elliot had been down previously. Referee Tony Walker.

Jimmy Peters, 177½, Southampton, stopped Carlton Jackson, 177, referee Walker intervening at 2:36 of Round One in a scheduled six with Jackson under pressure.

Debutant Eric Cardouza, 185½, Daventry, stopped Mick Cordon, 212, referee Walker calling a halt at 1:08 of Round Five in a scheduled six with Cordon under pressure.
(10-28-87)

▶**LONDON—York Hall**—Tony McKenzie, 145, Leicester, stopped Welshman Kelvin Mortimer, 146, referee Reg Thompson, intervening at 1:55 of Round Three of a scheduled eight with Mortimer under pressure.

Shane Silvester, 130, West Bromwich, drew over six with Gary Nickels, 127½, Paddington. Referee Reg Thompson. Nickels afterwards announced his retirement from the ring.

Brian Robinson, 154½, Hastings, outpointed Chris Richards, 160, Leicester, referee Thompson scoring it 59½-58 after six.

Roy Rowlands, 147, West Ham, stopped Wilbert Halliday, 152, at 1:50 of the opening round in a scheduled six, referee Thompson calling a halt after Halliday had been down twice.

Blaine Logsdon, 174, Warrington, stopped sub Alan Baptiste, 169, Luton, referee Nathan intervening at 2:20 of Round Three in a scheduled eight after Baptiste had been floored.

Nigel Benn, 162, West Ham, kept his unbeaten record by disposing of American Ronnie Yeo, 163, who was floored twice before referee Nathan stopped it at 57 seconds of the opening round in a scheduled eight. The referee did not take up the count, with Yeo well and truly "out."

James Oyabola, 221, Paddington, kayoed Carl Timbrell, Redditch, 227, at 0:45 of Round Two in a scheduled six.
(11-3-87)

▶**BRADFORD—Yorkshire Executive Sporting Club**—Peter Crook, Chorley, stopped Kevin Plant, Doncaster, referee Mickey Vann intervening at 1:00 of Round Seven in a scheduled eight twos with Plant under pressure.

Maurice Thomas Jr. 176, Bradford, stopped Sean Stringfellow, 172, Worksop, referee Vann calling a halt at 1:13 in a scheduled six twos after Stringfellow had

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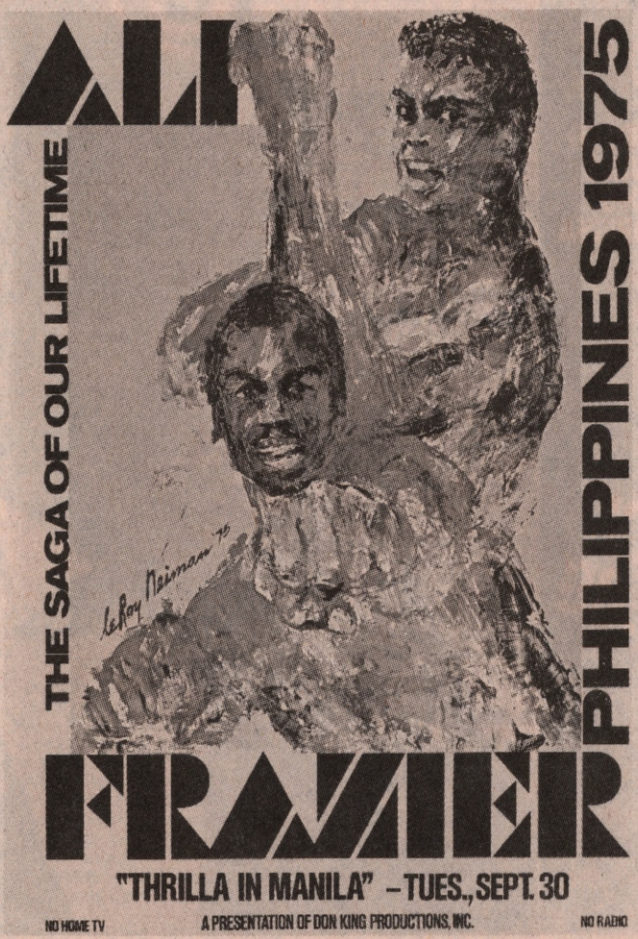

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been down twice.

James Jiora, 140, Otley, stopped Michael Howell, 140, Nottingham, referee Phil Cowsill calling a halt at 1:17 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos with Howell under pressure.

Barry Messam, 147, Nottingham, stopped James Conley, 150, Bradford, referee Cowsill intervening at 1:23 of Round Two with Conley under pressure.
(11-2-87)

▶**WOLVERHAMPTON—Sporting Club**—Rafaele Feliciello, 155, Rhyl, outpointed Geoff Calder, 154, Kidderminster, referee Paul Thomas scoring it 79-78½ after eight twos.

Kevin Thompson, 150, Dudley, kayoed Eddie Collins, 150, Peterborough, as the bell ended Round One in a scheduled six twos. Referee Paul Thomas.

Steve Phillips, 138, Doncaster, kayoed Steve Taggart, 139, Birmingham, at 1:20 of Round Five in a scheduled six twos. Referee Terry O'Connor.

Micky Greenwood, 125, Leicester, outpointed Phil Lashley, 126, Birmingham, referee O'Connell casting it 59½-58 over six twos.

Eddie King, 142, Doncaster, confirmed a previous win by stopping Cecil Branch, 144, Wolverhampton, referee O'Connor intervening in Round Four of a scheduled six with Branch under pressure.
(10-13-87)

▶**GATESHEAD—Dunston Activity Centre**—Kevin Spratt, 139½, Bradford, outpointed David Maw, 143½, Sunderland, referee Fred Potter scoring it 79½-78 after eight. It was Maw's first defeat.

Frank Grant, 163, Bradford, outpointed debutant Mick (brother of David) Maw, Sunderland, referee Potter casting it 59½-58½ after six. Maw had four stitches in two eye cuts.

Paul Kennedy, 136, Consett, outpointed debutant Darren Derby, 133, Barnsley, referee Gerald Watson casting it 59½-58½ after six twos. Kennedy was down in Round Three.

Debutant Dave Hindmarsh, 140, Newcastle, narrowly outpointed Simon Hunter, 139½, Bradford, referee Watson scoring it 59½-59 after six twos. Hunter was down in the first round.
(10-16-87)

RON OLVER

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

▶**BONDI—Hakoah Club**—For the superstitious, Friday the 13th is a bad day. On this date, promoter Ray Dunbar presented a program at the Hakoah Club, which drew only about 200 for a financial loss. It was a shame as the bill was worth watching.

On top was a 10-rounder in which former Australian champion Mark Cribb, 125¾, outpointed Australian-based New Zealander Peter Warren, 122, in a close, but unanimous decision.

One of the best prelims of the year was featured on this program. Billed for six rounds, it ended in Round Five when the referee rescued Troy Power, 139¼, and crowned Neil Higgins, 145¼. Fitness won for Higgins, but Power showed he is a prospect. He floored Higgins in rounds two and four, but Higgins floored him twice in the final round.

Also over six rounds, Robert Ngawaka, 160, outpointed Roland Stamplair, 160, by split decision.

Kirk Blair, 138¾, drew with Rodney Brown, 147¾, in a good six-rounder. The decision was split three ways.
(11-13-87)

▶**DAPTO—Leagues Club**—Former Australian lightweight champion Billy Mulholland, 139¼, comfortably outpointed Kirk Blair, 139¼, in the main event over 10 rounds.

Over eight rounds, Robbie Newton, 147¾, drew with Bill Stevanoski, 144½. For some reason, Stevanoski changed his name for this fight, though he reverted to his real name in his next bout. The name he used in this fight was Charles Bronson!

Over six rounds, Apollo Sweet, 190¾, outpointed Terry Davis, 198½.

Rodd Carr, 168¾, knocked out Darren Mees, 159¾, in two.

Rocky Restuccia, 161¾, outpointed Vito Gaudioso, 158¾, in four.

Promoter: Frank Axisa.
(11-20-87)

▶**SYDNEY—Entertainment Centre**—WBC super bantamweight champ, Aussie Jeff Fenech, stepped on the scales at 126¼ to oppose Argentinian Osmar Avila, 125¾, who came to Australia with a No. 10 featherweight rating by the WBC and a record of only two losses, both divisions, in 43 fights.

Set for 10 rounds, it was all over in 56 seconds. Fenech unleashed a left hook-right to the body combination. That left hook was a pearl. Down went Avila as though someone had cut his feet from under him. It was a minute or so before he regained consciousness. Then, he cried.

Referee Billy Males sure had an easy job.

As I have stated many times from the start of Fenech's career, this boy is great. He was the IBF bantam champ but relinquished that title to campaign as a super bantam (junior feather), winning that title with a four-round KO of Samart Payakarun. His pro career now spans 19 fights, all wins, 15 of them by KO. He has held two Australian titles (still is our feather champ) and two world titles, defending the first once, the second twice.

Jeff Fenech will win a third world title. He will beat any featherweight in the world.

In the main support, billed for 10 rounds, Avila's sparring partner Jorge Pompe, 130, met Aussie Ken Carter, 131¼. Pompe received a cut eye from an accidental head clash in Round Six, and referee John Cauchi called for the scorecards. All favored the visitor, two by 48-47, so Pompe received a technical points decision.

Fenech's gym-mate, Jeff Harding, 168½, continued his KO record with a second-round knockout of Fijian Moses Vilia, 181¾. Villa was down and dazed when referee John Wright stopped the fight at 1:21 of Round Two.

Over eight rounds, Graeme Looker, 151¾, won a split decision over Paul Toweel, 151¾. *The Ring* saw the good fight even.

In another eight-rounder, Chris Dawe, 128¾, outpointed Hector Cheatham, 128¾.

Two four-rounders completed the bill.

Making his pro debut, Mark Kyle, 221¼, knocked out newcomer Bill Scanlon, 206, in two.

Eugene Tunney (now there's a familiar name!), 145¾, outpointed Edwin Peterson, 142.

Promoter: Bill Mordey/Classic Promotions.
(12-11-87)

VICTORIA

▶**FERNTREE GULLY—Sole Brothers Circus Tent**—That is correct, this program was held in a circus tent, drawing about 2,000 fans.

On top was a scheduled 10 between Australian cruiserweight champ Dave Russell, 195, and American Lavell Stanley, 193. Stanley towered over Russell, but Dave cut down the tree in Round Three. It was nearly a full minute before Stanley regained consciousness.

A 10-rounder for the vacant Victorian state lightweight title between Pat Mudford, 134½, and Tony Maretta, 134½, was full of action. In Round Three, Maretta took two eight counts before referee Chris Anderson stopped the fight. Maretta complained, as did his corner, but Anderson said the boy was dazed.

In another 10, Dave Ramsden, 156½, was halted by Guy Murdoch, 156½, in Round Seven. Ramsden was too experienced.

Over four rounds, Rocky Pirrottina, 141, outpointed Darren Robinson, 143¼. Robinson was making his pro debut, while Pirrottina was having his 33rd fight!

Promoter: Leo Barry.
(11-13-87)

▶**MELBOURNE—Festival Hall**—WBC "junior" super lightweight champ Tony Jones defended his title, now called "WBC International," against Australian and Commonwealth welter titleholder Wilf Gentzen.

Coming into Round Eight, Gentzen was ahead narrowly on all cards when a truck hit him. Jones decked him and dazed him and referee Denzil Creed rescued Wilf. Each scaled 139.

An upset occurred in the 10-round main support as Ronald Doo, 147¾, halted Craig Trotter, 143½, in Round Eight. There were no knockdowns, but referee Malcolm Bulner stopped the bout on the towel.

In another 10, this one for the Victorian state junior welter title held by Paul Delosa, the champ stopped Bill Stevanoski in Round Nine. Stevanoski took a count early, but rallied. In Round Nine, however, he was taking punishment when referee Johnny Wheeler rescued him. Delosa weighed 138¾, Stevanoski, 139¾.

Scott Brouwer, 122¼, notched a four-round KO over Angelo Cacciotti, 122, in another scheduled 10.

For the first time in Australia, a women's boxing contest was shown publicly (there have been some illegal ones in the past). In the featherweight match, Sue Carter drew with Michelle Christofeus.

Promoter: Cos Sita.
(12-10-87)

QUEENSLAND

▶**NERANG—Pelerman's Palace**—Tom West, 167½, knocked out Russell Johnson, 169¾, in the fifth of the scheduled 10-round main event.

It was a good fight with the stoppage being brought on by a cut eye. But West was well on top and would have scored a stoppage or clean KO had the bout continued.

Four rounds: Chris Eldridge, 154¼, knocked out Danny West, 154¼, in two.

Flash Gordon, 130, knocked out Joe Brown, 141, in one.

Three rounds: Craig Peterson, 185¼, outpointed George Kamarinos, 180¾.

Promoter: Ruben Pelerman.
(11-12-87)

▶**GATTON-Shire Hall**—Noel Thornberry met Laurie Howe for the vacant Queensland state middleweight title over 10 rounds, but the bout ended in the ninth with Denzil Creed counting out Howe, completing the 10 after the bell terminated the round.

Thornberry looked the winner all the way, but Howe showed plenty of courage and willingness to fight and won a couple of rounds.

The preliminaries were all scheduled for three rounds.

Tony Nolan, 141, knocked out Tiger Collins, 143¼, in two.

Kevin Fames, 167½, outpointed Michael Hodger, 161.

Gordon Buzzer (we've had many Bells in boxing, but this is the first time I've known of a Buzzer), 194, outpointed Ross Gordon, 191¾.

Lex Bracken, 156½, outpointed Shane Dalton, 154¼.

Ross Bracken, 158¾, outpointed Albert Vickery, 162.
(11-20-87)

▶**TUGUN—Surf Life Saving Club**—On the first boxing card in Tugun, Viv Schwalger, 173, outpointed Hape Mann, 173, in a good battle that drew a shower of money from ringsiders.

One card was a draw, the others went narrowly for Schwalger.

Comebacking Guy Parker, 147, outpointed Jaime Tracey, 147, by split decision after a good six rounds.

The remainder of the bouts were scheduled for three rounds with no weights announced.

John Christoff knocked out Jason Markwell in two.

Billy Jacobs outpointed George Kamarinos.

Geoff Robinson outpointed Jeff Brice.

Mark Goodwin outpointed Tim Nagy.

Promoter: Don Glover.
(12-2-87)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

▶**PERTH—Italian Club**—Three 10s and an eight comprised this Ron Skinner/United Pacific Promotions program, with Shane Riley, 129¾, winning the WA state lightweight title from Colin Capelli, 129¾, on a split decision in the headliner.

Brad Mogeridge, 143½, held his WA state welter title with a points decision over Ra Puki, 146¼. The verdict was split, but the card of the judge voting for Puki was puzzling.

Victorian Rocky Pirrottina, 146, picked himself off the floor in Round Two, then had things his own way over WA lad Matthew Smith, 147½, who holds the WA junior middleweight crown. Pirrottina won clearly on points.

The eight-rounder saw Steve Daley, 164½, win a unanimous decision over transplanted NSW lad Robbie Hitchenson, 165¼. Hitchenson fought as Ron Hitch in this good one.
(11-27-87)

AUSSIES OVERSEAS

▶**PANGUNA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**—Dean Amiott, Australia, knocked out Vincent Kokovi, New Guinea, in nine.

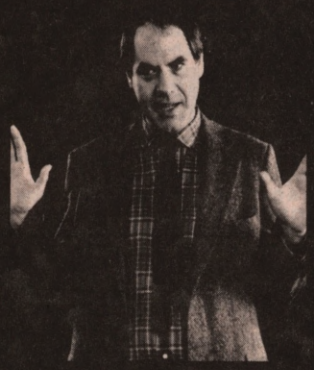
Ken Carter, Australia, knocked out John Hisa, New Guinea, in four.

Each contest was scheduled for 10.
(11-21-87)

RAY MITCHELL

NEW ZEALAND

▶**AUCKLAND—Logan Campbell Centre**—New Zea-



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I'm not the old Robert Klein you know and love. I'm the new Robert Klein. I gave up smoking and I feel like a new man. My doctor asked me to take a deep breath and I vacuumed half his office! Seriously, smoking does damage your lungs with each and every puff. I may be crazy, but I'm not crazy enough to keep smoking. I quit and so can you. You'll see!

Robert Klein

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
The Christmas Seal People

land heavyweight champion August Tanuvasa, 222½, narrowly won a split decision over the holder of the Orient and Pacific titles, Dave Barry, 230, for the vacant Australasian crown.

Barry's OPBF title was not at stake in the bruising 12-rounder.

Tanuvasa appeared set for an early victory as he dominated the opening two rounds to have Barry bloody-nosed and looking bemused. But Barry got back into it as he got his southpaw right jab pumping away and sought to outwork his opponent in close.

The local took the fifth with heavy rights, but faded late in the sixth when Barry opened a cut over his right eye. After nine rounds, the fight was still in the balance, but Tanuvasa showed more initiative with his heavier punching in the last three frames to earn his questionable victory. Eddie Manuela refereed.

Leading New Zealand welterweight contender Alberto Ma Chong, 146½, was vastly impressive as he severely demolished experienced Australian Steve Assang, 154, 1:14 into Round Three. Assang was dropped twice heavily in Round Two from left-right combinations, and in the third Ma Chong went to the body, twice more sending the wilting Assang to the deck. Gamely, the Australian climbed off the canvas to face yet a further rib-crushing attack. But when he crumbled to the floor a third time, referee Johnny Hanks raised a jubilant Ma Chong's arm as a TKO victor.

Yet another Kiwi notched a TKO win over an Australian when Peter Warren, 128, stopped gritty veteran Bobby Williams, 127½, in the fifth. Contesting his ninth outing compared to Williams' 70-plus, Warren blazed in with punching aggressiveness to overwhelm his game opponent, referee Hanks stopping the action at 46 seconds of the fifth of a scheduled 10-rounder.

Two locals opened the night's fisticuffs with former amateur star Michael Sykes, 141, opposing more experienced John loule, 147, over six rounds. Sykes boxed well behind his southpaw stance and punched hard enough to send his opponent down for a compulsory eight-count in the fourth. loule was warned for a blatant butt in the fifth and took steady punishment in the final frame. Referee Ali Afakasi raised Sykes' arm aloft as the judges declared him a unanimous points victor.

Promoter: Johnny Glozier.
Attendance: 800.
(11-25-87)

JOHNNY HANKS

ORIENT

PHILIPPINES

▶**PARANAQUE—Elorde Sports Complex**—Unbeaten prospect Pretty Boy Lucas, 105, the WBC's fourth-ranked strawweight contender, kept his Filipino mini-flyweight title as he impressively chalked up a TKO victory over Rizaldy Ocampo, also 105, at 2:49 of the sixth round in a scheduled 12.

The very tall Lucas scored accurate punches to the challenger, dropping him thrice in the fatal session. Referee Onofre Perez declared a well-received stoppage. Lucas had acquired the national throne by beating Jun Afable November 8, 1986, and this was his first defense.

Scoring after five rounds: Fiscal Godfredo Fandialan 49-48, Lucas; Alex Villacampa 49-47, Ocampo; and Alejandro Francisco, 48-48.

Pretty Boy extended his unblemished log to 21-0. He is expected to have a crack at one of the three world crowns in the 105-pound class.

Jun Altarejos, ranked fifth in the mini-flyweight class by the GAB (Games and Amusement Board, the commission of this country), 109, and Jun Tighanon, 106, fought to a technical draw in the fourth canto of a scheduled 10. Tom Evaristo refereed.

Preliminaries: Rey Angara, 150, halted Rey Dizon, 149, at the end of the third round in a scheduled six.

Four rounders: Virgilio Openio, 119½, TKO'd Rene Espina, 120¾, at 1:54 of the second session.

Nick Maca, 103, took a majority nod over Marcelo Alvarino, 105, in the opener.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.
(10-28-87)

▶**SOUTH COTABATO**—Gilbert Alferez, 120, won a unanimous decision over Emiliano Alferez, also 120, in 10. Vicente refereed. It wasn't a fight between brothers.

Mario Parcon, 114, was a unanimous points winner over Cesar Perez, 114, in 10.

Jun Pampliega, 126, TKO'd Reye dela Cruz, 128, in the eighth canto in the first 10.

Promoter: Natividad C. Baobog.
(10-1-87)

▶**NABUNTARAN, DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Nick Ampong, 122, chalked up a technical knockout over Ben Capagngan, also 122, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10. Butalid refereed.

Nelson Cabig, 122, stopped Nestor Pagaran, also 122, in the second canto of the first 10.

Francis Vilasquez, 122, won from Lanny Sollano, also 122, in eight.

Arnold Sazon, 112, fought to a majority draw with Joseph Salvador, 112, in four.

Promoter: Exequeil Labrador.
(10-2-87)

▶**DAVAO CITY—CYO Gym**—Nelson Purisima, the Filipino #2 mini-flyweight, 106, took a unanimous verdict over Romy Ceniza, also 106, in 10. Aleria refereed.

Rolando Protacio, 110, drew with Joseph Galagaran, 110, in 10.

Rodrigo Boy Louperez, 122, eked out a split decision over Mario Sumalinog, 122, in 10.

Loloc Elioren, 108, unanimously outscored Nathan Ballarda, 110, in 10.

Domino Simene, 117, scored a majority decision over Speedy Sidong, 119, in eight.

Ronnie Tan, 111½, TKO'd Sally Siscon, also 111½, in the third session of a scheduled eight.

Ken Java, 114½, drew with Arthur Baclayo, 114, in the eight-round opener.

Promoter: Renato Buenaventura.
(10-2-87)

▶**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—Rod Naicini, the GAB's #7 flyweight, 113, managed to win a majority decision over Roel Durano, also 113, in 10. Tomas Estrella refereed.

Terry Felesilda, the Filipino fourth-ranked junior flyweight, 111, won from Joselito Castro, 110, in a unanimous 10.

Jong Jong Perez, 106, decisioned Anthony Rendiza, 105, in 10.

Ernie Orndaniza, 118, won over Eldie Paradero, 117, in 10.

Allan Inguito, 118, drew with Jun Salisi, 116, in eight.

John del Puerto, 106, outscored Ruben Inot, 112, in six.

Boy Aceptcion, 106, TKO's Virgilio Berin, 107, in the fourth and final round of the opener.

Promoter: Joseph Denosta.
(10-3-87)

▶**QUEZON CITY—Quezon City Hall**—Leon Collins Chavez, the GAB's third-ranked featherweight, 130, pounded out a unanimous decision from Bernabe Aliping, 133½, in 10. Tom Evaristo refereed.

Romeo Opriasa, 111½, won from Cris Ramos, 112, in 10.

Cris Saguid, 124½, decisioned Paquito Openo, 124½, in eight.

Noel Cornelio, 114, beat Eddie Bacunawa, 114, on points in six.

Ronnie Belardo, 119, stopped Gotis, 120, at 1:45 of the first round in the four-round opener.

Promoter: Grego Garcia.
(10-9-87)

▶**TALISAY—Talisay Sports Complex**—Rolando Navares, 113½, defeated Ross Canedo, 114, by a unanimous decision in 10. Jerry Villarante refereed.

Edgar Perez, 119, and Jerry Tarona, 118½, battled to a split draw in eight.

Carlos Cedeno, 120, took a majority nod over Jiper Pahayahay, 118½, in four.

Promoter: Christopher Aranco.
(10-11-87)

▶**QUEZON, BUKIDNON—Quezon Galiera**—Al Balaba, 122, scored a fine TKO over Boy Gonzales, also 122, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10. Jimmy Galarpe refereed.

Dan Maplad, 107, copped a unanimous duke from Arnold Solitario, 109, in 10.

Loel Alaiza, 106, outpointed Ernie Buenafe, 110, in six.

Jessie Balista, 107, drew with Wacky Bacasmot, 107, in the six-round opener.

Promoter: Neptali Bokingo.
(10-10-87)

▶**MALANGAS, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Randy

Eosrigo, 128, was held to a majority draw by Cyd Mabanag, 128, in 10. Eldie Pardero refereed.

Orlando Calderon, 108, beat Glen Torres, 109, on points in 10.

Jun Lador, 135, drew with Jun Rosal, 135, in six.

Speedy "Jack" Comen, 105, won from Jack Mohamada. 105, in the four-round opener.

Promoter: Roberto Rodrigo.

(10-10-87)

▶**VITALI, ZAMBOGANGA CITY**—Cris Bohos, 118, stopped Diony Rago, also 118, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10. Romy Bernaldez refereed.

It was the sole fight on this card.

Promoter: Cesar Cinco.

(10-11-87)

▶**PARANAQUE—Elorde Sports Complex**—Filipino welterweight champ Francisco Ferrer, 146, overcame the early points lead of ex-titlist Dionisio Castillo, also 146, punished the latter with heavy body shots, and retained his title by a split decision in 12.

Scoring: Ray Ming Chan 116-115, Ferrer; Alex Villacampo 116-114, Ferrer; Vic Valdez 117-115, Castilllo.

It was Ferrer's first defense since wresting the national throne from Castillo via a unanimous nod on February 20 last.

Ferrer, a 27-year-old stocky puncher, bettered his log to 25-8-4. Castillo fell to 18-6-5.

Edel Geronimo, the GAB's third-ranked junior bantamweight, dropped Jun Edward, also 116½, with smashing rights to the jaw in the first and second rounds, stopping him at 1:48 of the second canto in a scheduled 10. Vic Valdez refereed.

Jun Gavero, 123, unanimously decisioned Con Con Duran, 122, in 10.

Saturnino Sebelina, 126, stopped Joseph Chan, 126, at 1:30 of the fifth session of a scheduled eight.

Rodie Sanchez, 115, TKO'd Romeo Malong, 115, at 1:37 of the third session of a scheduled four.

Fernando Palad, 125, outscored Analito Ajit, 127, in the six-round opener.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.

(10-14-87)

▶**OROQUIETA CITY**—Rolando Calderon, 108, scored a fifth-round TKO over Bonifacio Bahian, 109, in a scheduled 10. Jorge Dolotallas refereed.

Fred Tadena, 149, was also a TKO winner over Erol Bartolaba, 150, in the fourth session in a scheduled 10.

Roger Gamayot, 108, won from Cris Sanchez, 109, in 10.

Flash Asesor, 112, halted Jerry Molina, 112, in the sixth canto of a scheduled eight.

Boy Ascepcion, 106, fought to a split draw with Jet Morre, 107, in six.

Promoter: Carlos Almirante.

(10-16-87)

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Filipino junior welterweight champ Allan Alegria, the WBC's 22nd contender, 142, pounded out a unanimous decision over Archie Garcia, 143, in a non-title 10. Satur Yongco refereed.

Fernando Carupo, the Filipino eight-ranked featherweight, 121, won a unanimous decision over Danny Ortega, 120, in 10.

Rey Betsalida, 107, managed to take a majority nod over Joel Revilla, 106, in 10.

Speedy Sidong, 118, stopped Tony Boy Bello, 118, in the fourth canto of a scheduled eight.

Rene Rebolgado, 116, won from Ruben Ehilia, 116, in six.

Jaime Centos, 117, drew with Eddie Castillo, 119, in the four-round opener.

Promoter: Andres Ong.

(10-17-87)

▶**MIMANAET, BUKIDNON**—Jun Ramos, the GAB's second-ranked welterweight, 148, earned a unanimous decision over Gar Atayde, 149, in 10. Jimmy Galarpe refereed.

Loloc Elloren, 108, TKO'd William Belen, also 108, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10.

Leo Sabanal, 135, stopped Nick Caputol, 136, in the seventh round of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Bonifacio Hilario.

(10-17-87)

▶**ZAMBOANAGA DEL SUR**—Eldie Paradero, 118, was held to a split draw by Nick Ampong, 119, in 10. Romy Bernaldez refereed.

Young Abaloyan, 126, TKO'd Jun Carreon, 126, at 2:40 of the second round in the semifinal 10.

Rico Siodora, 113, won from Fighting Roger, 113, in eight.

Boy Villa, 112, stopped Rudy Idano, also 112, in the fourth and final round.

Star Malina Jr., 112, TKO'd Little Timoteo, also 112, in the second round of a scheduled four.

Flash Bautista, 135, outpointed Flash Sorino, 136, in the four-round opener. There were flashes between the Flashes.

Promoter: Cesar Cinco.

(10-17-87)

▶**PIGCAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO**—Joe Aporado, 120, scored a third-round TKO over Pepito Simblante, also 120, in a scheduled 10. Satur Yongco refereed.

Flash Simene, 118, impressively knocked out Jun Estano, 118, in the seventh canto of a scheduled 10.

Freddie Dableo, 126, TKO'd Saldy Crisostomo, also 126, in the third session of the six-round opener.

Promoter: Ben Hur Bedia.

(10-18-87)

▶**MAMBAJAO, CAMIGUIN**—Fernando Baha, 103, stopped Vic Tinaco, 104, in the seventh round of a scheduled 10. Ric Alido refereed.

Lan Enguito, 120, won a unanimous nod from Jun Salisi, 120, in eight.

Bennie Ballientos, 122, TKO'd Rey Tapongot, 122, in the fourth round of a scheduled six.

Efren Limit, 120, decisioned Vic Caballero, 121, in six.

Lton Mangmang, 112, won over Andy Quiamjot, 114, in six.

Promoter: Ben Phalo.

(10-22-87)

▶**DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Robinson Cabusao, the GAB's eighth-ranked junior bantie, 114, chalked up a TKO over Jessie Cambangay, 114, in the seventh session of a scheduled 10. Gregorio Arabis refereed.

Luis Milado, 130, kayoed Primo Bulambao, 130, in the opening canto of a scheduled 10.

Kid Tavera, 124, won from Lec Lancian, 124, in 10.

Bimbo Canaya, 140, was a knockout victor over Sammy Suelto, 140, in the first session of the first 10.

Francis Velasquez, 127, took a split decision from Jun Cajes, 125, in eight.

Rey Estremos, 114, TKO'd Gerry Balawang, 114, in the fourth and final session of the opener.

Promoter: Eusebio Almario Jr.

(10-24-87)

▶**BAROBO**—Jun Quiamco, the Filipino #5 junior lightie, 128, registered an impressive and amazing first-round TKO over Boy Jamer, 128, in a scheduled 10. Butalid refereed.

Roger Vicera, 114, also TKO'd Alfredo Golpe, 114, in the ninth round of a scheduled 10.

Danny Lumanog, 118, stopped Speed Picante, 118, in the seventh canto of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Presco Taguran.

(10-24-87)

▶**BALANGA, BATAAN**—Eric Chavez, 108, defeated Romy Austria, also 108, in 10 rounds. Vic Valdez refereed.

Rolando Pascua, 114, TKO'd Cris Ramos, also 114, at the end of the fourth session in a scheduled 10.

Rex Rapiso, 111, stopped Allan Morre, 112, at 2:05 of the eighth round in the first 10.

Promoter: Carmelita Pascua.

(10-24-87)

▶**BAROBO**—Jun Quiamco, 128, scored a first-round TKO over Boy Jamer, 128, in a scheduled 10.

Roger Vicera, 114, was also a TKO winner over Alfredo Golpe, also 114, in the ninth session of a scheduled 10.

Danny Lumanog, 118, halted Speed Picante, 118, in round seven of the 10-round opener.

Promoter: Presco Taguran.

(10-24-87)

▶**MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO**—Former Filipino junior bantamweight champ Ruben dela Cruz, 115, earned a unanimous decision from Teo Aradora, 118, in 10.

Edgar Inocencio, 111, outpointed Nathan Ballarda, 109, in 10.

Robert Mataganas, 114, drew with Joel Solinap, 114, in 10.

Roy Pollards, 110, stopped Ric Apatan, 110, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10.

Mario Vista, 138, decisioned Hardy Penola, 138, in the six-round opener.

Promoter: Ben Hur Bedia.

(10-25-87)

▶**VALENCIA GALLERA, BUKIDNON**—Jun Generale, the GAB's fifth-ranked junior flyweight, 112, took a split decision over Cecelio Tutor, also 112, in 10.

Promoter: Ramon Siaty.

(10-25-87)

▶**MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL**—Boy Ligas, 126, chalked up a TKO win over Melchor Ardonia, 127, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10.

Geofrey Gegoncillo, 110, won from Ruben Ehilla, 110, in the eight-round opener.

THE RING LOSES TWO FRIENDS

Though filled with joy, the recent holiday season also brought sadness to the staff of *The Ring* with the passing of veteran correspondent Louis Zipkin and Mavis Grace Mitchell, the wife of correspondent Ray Mitchell.

The 71-year-old Zipkin covered *The Ring's* Florida beat for over 20 years before succumbing to cancer the day after Christmas at University Hospital in Tamarac, Florida. Until the end, Zipkin remained dedicated to boxing, covering the November 27 WBC bantamweight championship match between Miguel Lora and Ray Minus for *The Ring*.

Zipkin had boxed professionally as a youngster and, though never a world champion or contender, proved a good drawing card. "I provided a lot of action and sold a lot of tickets," Zipkin recalled when he visited *The Ring's* offices last summer.

Formerly of New Hyde Park, New York, Zipkin resided in Inverrary, Florida, at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife, Yetta, two sons, five grandchildren, two brothers and one sister.

On December 5, our Australian correspondent Ray Mitchell was dealt a crushing blow when his wife of 42½ years, Mavis Grace, was killed in an automobile accident.

Mavis Grace and Ray were married July 19, 1945, and Mitchell felt that "never in history was there a happier marriage." Three sons, Alan, Paul and Christopher, survive to share their father's grief.

The boxing community reached out as well. Mitchell has already received phone calls and cards from around the world.

The staff of *The Ring* sends its heartfelt regrets to the Zipkin family and to our good friend, Ray Mitchell. Those readers who have enjoyed the work of both Zipkin and Mitchell throughout the years may send condolences care of this magazine.

The Editors

Promoter: Rolando Ligas.
(10-29-87)

▶**LUCKY SAN PABLO CITY**—Felix Enero, 122½, pounded out a unanimous nod over Boy Masuay, also 122½, in 10.

Cobra Ari Blanca, 118, decisioned Billy Endrina, 119, in 10.

Fer Palad, 125½, stopped Ador Unesto, 126, at 2:15 of the first session in a scheduled eight.

Jun Villablanca, 118½, TKO's Eddie Bacunawa, 118½, at 2:10 of the third sesion in a scheduled six.

Jerry Flores, 115, won over Dennis Pastor, 113½, in six.

Ronnie Belaro, 116, stopped Roque Villanueva, also 116, at 1:17 of the second round of a scheduled six.

Promoter: Wilfredo Magbuhos.
(10-30-87)

▶**OZAMIS CITY**—Flash Ursus, 131, decisioned Vic Subiza, 131, in 10.

Cil Pintacasi, 120, won from Edwin Gella, also 120, in four.

Promoter: Reynaldo Yabut.
(10-30-87)

K.O.
DRUNK DRIVING
Be a Key One driver

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO—UM Gym**—Nelson Purisima, the GAB's second-ranked mini-flyweight, 102, won a seventh-round TKO over Jun Afable, ex-Filipino champ, 105, in a scheduled 10.

Romy Ceniza, 106, stopped Ricky Flor, 106, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10.

Boy Romero, 139, and Leo Sabanal, 137, fought to a majority draw in 10.

Nick Ampong, 121, stopped Rodrigo Loperez, 123, in the seventh canto of a scheduled 10.

Mario Sumalinog, 120, outpointed Nelson Cabig, 120, in the 10-round opener.

Promoter: Eusebio Almario Jr.
(10-31-87)

▶**POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO**—Dadoy Andujar, 118, returned to fight warfare and took a unanimous decision from Fernando Carupo, 120, in 10.

Rey Paciones, 116, managed to win a majority decision over Cesar Perez, 115, in 10.

Rolando Protacio, 114, outscored Young Rey, 114, in 10.

Ronnie Tan, 114, outscored Ken Java, 114, in eight.

Joseph Salvador, 112, drew with Joel Mayot, 112, in the eight-round opener.

Promoter: Benjamin Aquirre.
(10-31-87)

▶**TITAY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Lito Villaflor, 118, was awarded a split decision over Eldi Paradero, 119, in 10.

Rochel Canette, 136, drew with Lalay Lador, 135, in six.

Rudy Idano, 112, won from Cal Cabillan, 111, in six.

Little Timoteo Jr., 117, outpointed Jerry Aslab, 117, in the six-round opener.

Promoter: Cesar Cinco.
(10-31-87)

▶**MASIAG BAGUMBAYAN, SULTAN KUDARAT**—Elmer Cubillas, the Filipino #4 bantie, 118, was held to a unanimous draw by Gilbert Albay, 118, in 10.

Mario Parcon, 114, won from Edwin Inocencio, 112, in 10.

Promoter: Carmelino Buenaflor.
(10-31-87)

▶**SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN**—Jun Placencia, 128, scored a majority decision over Flash Albert, 128, in 10.

Ben Carpila, 135, outpointed Ric Dolotallas, also 135, in 10.

Amelito Punay, 118, decisioned Dondon Tumala, also 118, in the 10-round opener.

Promoter: Frisco Taguran.
(10-31-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

▶**PORT ELIZABETH**—The South African junior flyweight champion Vuyani Nene scored an easy third-round technical knockout over Raymond Plaatjies in a non-title fight.

Nene attacked from the first bell and, after landing some heavy blows to the stomach in the third round, Nene forced his man to raise his hands in surrender.

Mongezi Gxowa dropped Msondezi Piliso for an eight count, then surrendered in the second round of one of the preliminaries! Gxowa indicated to his corner that he had a toothache and couldn't continue, so Piliso was awarded a technical knockout.
(9-20-87)

▶**PORT ELIZABETH**—Welcome Ncita retained his South African flyweight title when he outpointed Johannes Miya over 12 rounds in a very closely contested fight.

This was the third time Miya had been defeated by Ncita, but he nevertheless gave the champion a very hard fight.

Ncita now becomes owner of the magnificent Old Buck championship belt after three successful defenses.

In a tough bantamweight fight over eight rounds, Mzwandile Somtunzi caused an upset when he outpointed Cape bantamweight champion Fundile Shushwana.
(10-4-87)

▶**EAST LONDON**—Mxhosana Jongilanga was very lucky to retain his South African featherweight title on a narrow points decision against Stanley Mathe over 12 rounds.

Jongilanga performed well below his normal standard, and the hometown judges were rather onesided in their scoring.

Don McLoughlin, the challenger's trainer, was very unhappy with the outcome as he believed Mathe had done enough in the early rounds to warrant the decision. But the huge crowd of approximately 4,000 was obviously very happy, cheering the local hero.
(10-18-87)

▶**ELDORADO PARK**—Jeffrey Mankune retained his Transvaal junior welterweight title when he scored a lopsided 10-round decision over Alan Manuel.

An estimated crowd of 600 saw the older and more experienced Mankune use all his boxing skills to completely outclass his opponent.

Manuel must be admired for lasting the distance, but would be better advised to concentrate on straight punches rather than winging in with wild blows.

In another Transvaal title fight, Aladin Stevens showed good form in stopping Bushy Mosoeu in the ninth round to retain his lightweight title.

This was a battle between former South African lightweight champions, but the sharper punching Stevens proved far superior with his better work rate and varied attack. He gave Mosoeu a boxing lesson.

It was difficult to believe this was the same Mosoeu who only some 16 months ago had given WBA junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell a tough fight over 12 rounds at Sun City. Mosoeu has nowhere to go at this stage and should take a serious look at his career before continuing.
(10-25-87)

▶**RIVERLEA**—Philemon Ayesu of Malawi scored a convincing 10-round knockout over Bramley Whiteboy in front of a jampacked crowd on a humid summer evening.

The more accurate punching of the Malawian began to take its toll at the end of the sixth round and the tiring Whiteboy was lucky to survive the eighth. By the 10th, Whiteboy had nothing left and Ayesu dropped him with a left. Whiteboy staggered up on unsteady legs, but was counted out by referee Chaane.

This was Ayesu's second victory in South Africa. He previously outpointed Patrick Mpamba.

In the main supporting bout, Malawian Ali Faki put up a most inept performance in losing a 10-round decision to Johannes Miya in a bantamweight contest.

The fight was dull and uninteresting and Miya won as he pleased against an opponent who was only interested in survival.

Petrus Mahlangu's bid to equal the South record of 10 successive knockouts at the beginning of a career came to an abrupt end when he was knocked out by Keith Rass in the first round of featherweight contest.
(10-22-87)

▶**SUN CITY BOPHUTHATSWANA**—Rickey Parkey, former IBF cruiserweight champion, gave South Africa's young heavyweight hope Johnny du Plooy a rough time before being knocked out in the 10th round.

Du Plooy may have scored his ninth knockout in a row and his 17th consecutive win, but it was possibly his poorest performance since joining the paid ranks.

The South African was reluctant to use his jab and, at times, was visibly stung by the wild overhand rights thrown by Parkey . . . Halfway through the 10th round, the South African came to life and let fly with a barrage of punches to Parkey's head. One got through, a full-blooded right that knocked back Parkey's head. Parkey pitched forward to be counted out by referee Stanley Christodoulou.

South African welterweight champion Harold Volbrecht completely outclassed Paul Toweel of Australia over 10 rounds to score a one-sided victory.

The veteran champion won as he pleased and gave Toweel a torrid time in the last two rounds.

Fransie Badenhost retained his Transvaal bantamweight title with an easy third-round knockout of plucky Martin Botes.

In a middleweight clash scheduled for eight, Piet Uys knocked out Michael Motsoane in the second.

Grant Messias, a highly touted amateur, made heavy weather of his second professional fight when he could force only a draw against the very ordinary Samuel Boikanyo in the junior lightweight division.
(10-31-87)

RON JACKSON

VETERAN BOXERS BEAT

by Charlie Spina

Sammy Mandell

SAMMY MANDELL, KNOWN AS THE "Rockford Sheik," was a highly skillful boxer, whose combination of courage and natural ability took him to the top of the lightweight ladder.

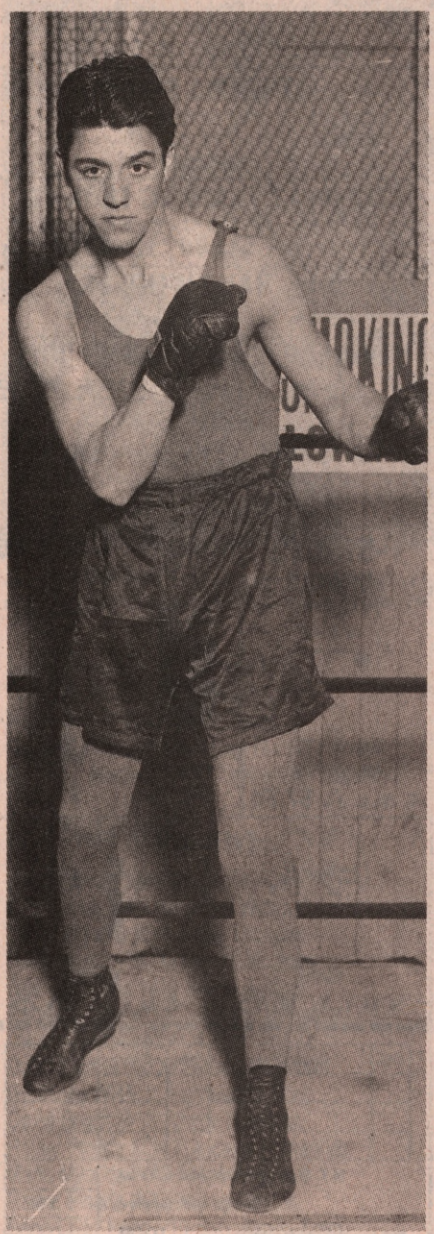
Born on February 5, 1904, Mandell began his boxing career in 1920 and fought until 1934, tallying an overall pro record of 82-17-8 with 28 knockouts. He also fought 60 "no decisions" and one "no contest."

Mandell faced some of the best lightweights in the history of the division and came out on top most of the time. Here's a partial list of some of the outstanding 135-pounders he beat during his great career: Billy Petrolle, Joey Sangor, "Cowboy" Eddie Anderson, Jack "Kid" Wolf, Babe Herman, Sid Terris, Jack Bernstein, Johnny Dundee, Phil McGraw, Jackie Fields, Luis Vincentini, Billy Wallace, Sid Barbarian and Solly Seeman.

On July 3, 1926, Mandell defeated Rocky Kansas for the lightweight title. However, his greatest single achievement was probably turning back the challenge of Jimmy McLarnin in a bout which saw Sammy outclass McLarnin with a brilliant display of boxing. In another memorable performance, Mandell retained his title with a 10-round decision over Tony Canzoneri, August 2, 1919.

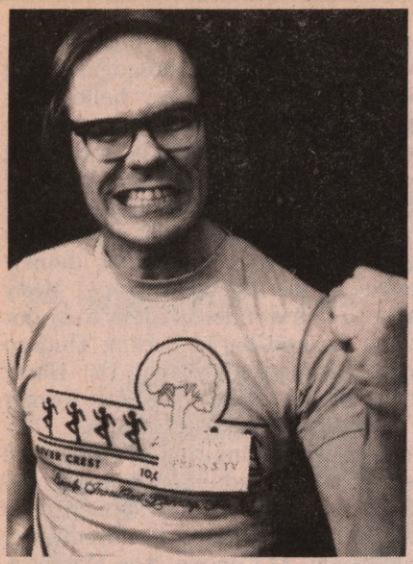
The following year, Mandell lost his title to Al Singer via a spectacular first-round knockout. He fought on for a few more years and then hung up his gloves for good. He was managed throughout most of his career by Eddie Kane.

Mandell handled a few fighters after he retired from active combat and then settled down with his family in Oak Park, Illinois, where he died November 7, 1967.



VETERAN BOXERS NOTES: Former light heavyweight king Archie Moore received the "Rocky Marciano Award" from New York's Downtown Athletic Club this past November . . . The Northern California VBA held its 20th anniversary celebration at the Sheraton Inn in Burlington, California, honoring the following: Mike Bernal, Sam Esposito, Esau Ferdinand, Sam Jordan and Marty Sammom . . . Charlie Varre, former lightweight contender during the 1940s, writes to say hello from Spokane, Washington. Varre, who fought many an exciting bout here on the East Coast, plans to leave the state of Washington and return to his Brooklyn roots . . . VBA Ring 21 (Brooklyn) held its annual testimonial dinner/dance at the Micali Terrace. Many came to this wonderful affair to honor Sonny Early, Charlie Larkin, Tindaro Corso, Tommy Santiago, Dr. Harry Lewis and Juan LaPorte, the former WBC featherweight champ . . . The New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame held its 18th annual induction dinner at the CAMEO in Garfield, New Jersey, with over 700 in attendance. Honored were: Paul Minai, Al Capone, Ace Marrotta, Johnny Traino, Georgie Holzman, Jimmy Dupree, Bob Lee, Joey Giardello, Emile Griffith, "Chappie" Roberts and yours truly, Charlie Spina. Honored posthumously were Charlie Traino and Lou Ordini. The New Jersey amateur boxer of the year was Derrick Parks and the pro of the year was Rocky Lockridge, IBF junior lightweight boss . . .

THE LAST ROUND: Billy Nichy, 75, former heavyweight contender from Buffalo, New York, died recently in Syder, N.Y. A retired barber at the time of his death, Nichy once defeated Lee Oma . . . Gil Cadilli, 56, featherweight contender during the 1950s and early 60s, died of stomach cancer at his home in East Los Angeles. A former California state featherweight champ, Cadilli split a pair of non-title decisions with Willie Pep in 1955 and lost three non-title bouts to the late Davey Moore. He was 33-20-6 overall . . . Bobby LaGuardia, former boxer and one-time trainer of Billy Arnold, passed away this past October in Philly . . . Noble "Kid" Chissell, 82, former boxer, actor, stunt man and champion marathon dancer, died November 8, 1987 in a Los Angeles area rest home. Born Noble LaPorte Chisman in Indianapolis, he fought under the name of Kid Chissell and once ran for mayor of Los Angeles. During his early days in the ring, Chissell fought out of Mariott's Gym in Cleveland. Leslie Towne Hope (Bob Hope) was a stablemate, fighting under the name of Packy East. In later years, Chissell worked on many of Hope's stage shows, films and TV broadcasts. May they all rest in peace. □



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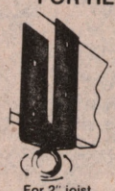

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WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Frank Lux W10 Rick Keller
Jerry Halstead W12 Bobby Crabtree
Michael Dokes TKO5 K.P. Porter
Ralf Rocchigiani W10 Chisanda Mutti
Bert Cooper TKO3 Tim Bullock
George Foreman TKO3 Rocky Sekorski
Ladislao Mijangos W10 Leon Spinks
Evander Holyfield KO4 Dwight Muhammad Qawi
(Retained WBA Jr. Heavyweight &
IBF Cruiserweight Titles)
Al Scott W10 Demetrius Edwards
James Salerno TKO4 Andre Van Den Oetelaar
Bash Ali KO1 Kevin Wagstaff

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Graciano Rocchigiani KO1 Mustafa Hamsho
Lotte Mwale W10 Jeff Lampkin
Vincent Boulware W10 Stacy McSwain
Chong-Pal Park KO2 Jesus Gallardo
(Retained WBA Super Middleweight Title)
Matthew Saad Muhammad W10 Bobby Thomas
Tony Willis TKO12 Ramzi Hassan
Leslie Stewart TKO4 Dawud Shaw
Arthel Lawhorne W10 Booker T. Word
Willy Featherstone W12 Danny Lindstrom
Uriah Grant TKO1 Louis Coleman
Jose Quinones TKO4 Errol Christie
Enrico Scacchia W10 Tony Burke

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Giovanni DeMarco W12 Raul Abeldano
Reggie Barnes W12 J.D. Dobbins
Anthony Logan KO1 Jorge Almonte
Buster Drayton TKO4 LeRoy Jones
Michael Olajide TKO6 Franklin Owens
Gianfranco Rosi KO7 Duane Thomas
(Retained WBC Super Welter Title)
Donald Curry W12 Lupe Aquino
Michael Nunn W12 Kevin Watts
Curtis Parker Tech.Dec.5 Phillip Morefield
Reading Steve Little W10 Ismael Negron
Herol Graham TKO8 Ricky Stackhouse
Donald Curry TKO4 Rigoberto Lopez
Darrin Van Horn W10 Joe Summers
Dan Schommer W10 James Shavers
Ron Daniels TKO4 David Braxton
Tomas Molinares TKO5 Eduardo Ruiz
Masaharu Owada KO5 Takeshi Yamato
Marcos Geraldo KO1 Jae-Ok Kim

WELTERWEIGHTS

Nino LaRocca KO1 Abdelhafid Arik
Saoul Mamby W10 Reyes Antonio Cruz
Harold Brazier KO2 Raymond Sparks
Tony Jones TKO8 Wilf Gentzen
Paul DeLosa TKO9 Bill Stevanoski
James McGirt TKO1 John Sinegal

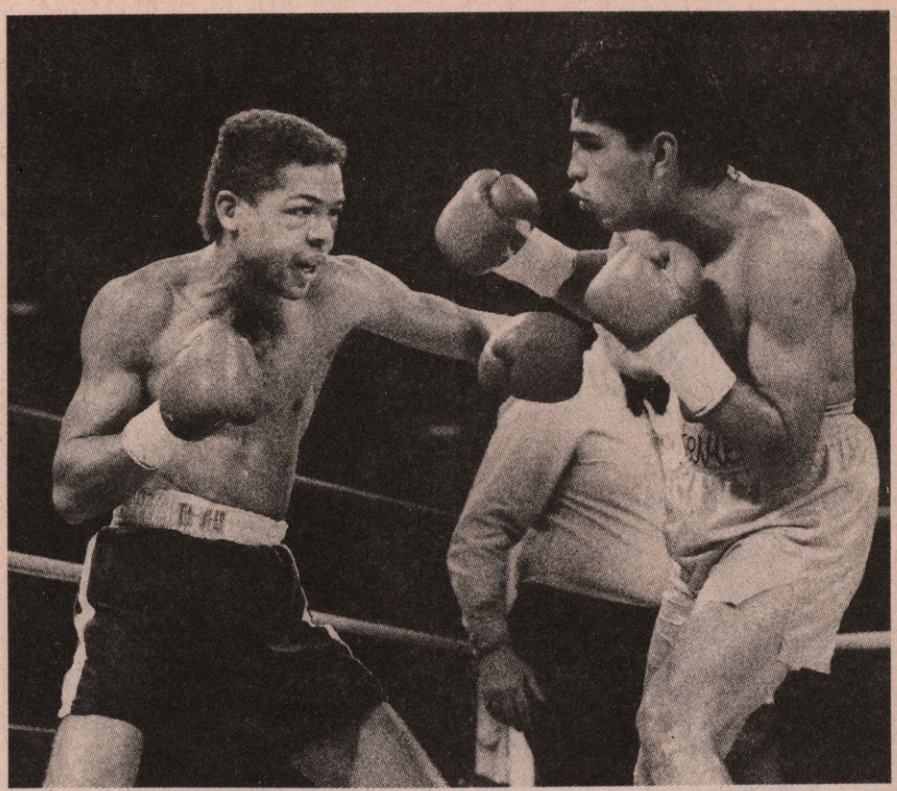

PHOTO BY CRAIG WALLACE CHAPMAN

Jeff Franklin (left) attacks former world featherweight champion Steve Cruz on his way to a unanimous 10-round decision in Las Vegas. The win rocketed Franklin into the world ratings.

Sammy Fuentes TKO5 Tony Martin
Terrence Alli W10 Miguel Santana
Mark Breland W10 Javier Suazo
Lancelot Cyrus D10 Conrade Hunt
Salvatore Nardino TKO7 Alessandro Scapecchi

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jorge Pompe Tech.Dec.6 Ken Carter
Billy Young W10 Sebastian Wilburn
Tommy Hanks W10 Keely Thompson
Greg Haugen TKO6 Derrick McGuire
John Duplessis W10 Sergio Aguirre
Pernell Whitaker TKO4 Davey Montana
Jose Luis Ramirez KO4 John Rafuse
Brian Mitchell TKO9 Salvatore Curcetti
(Retained WBA Jr. Lightweight Title)
David Briggs W10 Fitzroy Davidson
Rafael Pineda KO4 Francisco Fernandez
Mario Miranda W10 Felipe Angulo
Rafael Pineda KO3 Andres Ramos
Bong-Chun Park W10 Sung-Woon Song
Nedrae Simmons W10 Greg Gayle

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jeff Fenech KO1 Osmar Avila
Scott Brouwer KO4 Angelo Cacciotti
Harold Petty W10 Marino Ramirez
Jeff Franklin W10 Steve Cruz
Rafael Zuniga W10 Pedro Perez
Luis Mendoza W10 Enrique Sanchez
Miguel Maturana TKO5 Daniel Blanco
Maurizio Stecca WF6 Julian Solis
Jaime Garza KO6 James Manning

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Jimmy Navarro KO1 Mando Trevino
Chiaki Kobayashi W10 Joseph Ladope
Shunichi Nakajima TKO6 Shinji Ozawa
Soichi Shimamura W10 Katsunori Nagamoto
Sung-Kil Moon KO2 Tepratun Eakchatchingchai
Yul-Woo Lee KO5 Amado Ursua
Luigi Computaro W10 Kenny Mitchell

FLYWEIGHTS

Richard Clarke W12 Julio Gudino
Jung-Koo Chang W12 Isidro Perez
(Retained WBC Light Flyweight Title)
Fidel Bassa W12 Feliz Marti
(Retained WBA Title)
Francisco Tejedor TKO10 Rafael Julio
Seiji Tomari KO6 Makoto Sawamura
Yong-Kang Kim KO10 Pat Ohyuthanakorn
Dave McAuley W10 Roy Thompson

ASK THE STARS

Ring Magazine's indefatigable editors track down the biggest V.I.P.s in boxing to get answers to readers' provocative questions. If you have a query for a fighter, manager, promoter or anyone in the fight game, write:

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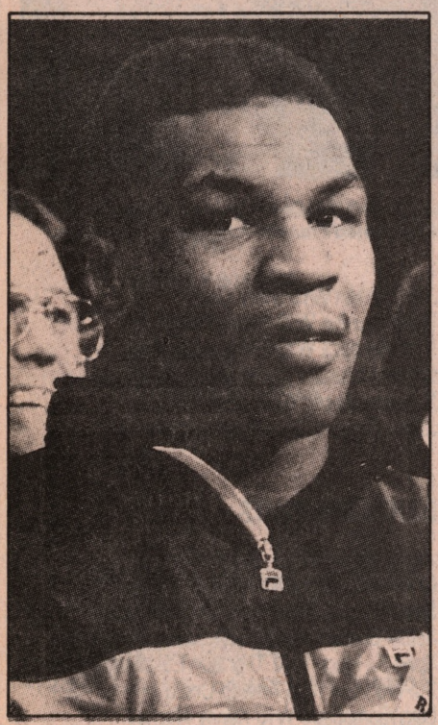
FOR SETH ABRAHAM
HBO vice president

Q: I read HBO has signed Mike Tyson to a new contract for over $20 million. Is any athlete worth that much?
F.P., SECAUCUS, NJ

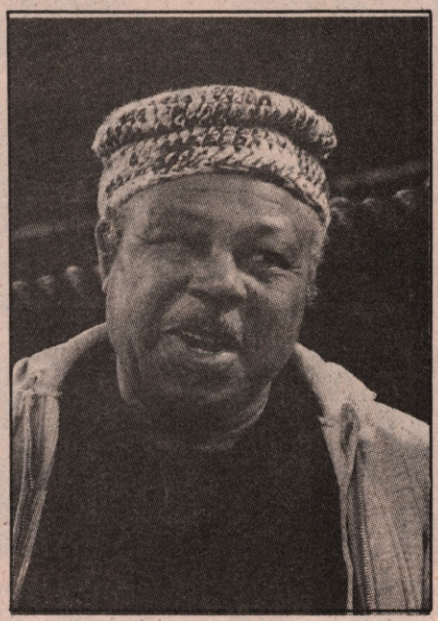
A: Tyson is a franchise for us, and you have to pay franchise players what they're worth. He puts people in our seats in the form of new subscriptions.



FOR MIKE TYSON
WBC/WBA/IBF heavyweight champ

Q: What do you think of Julio Cesar Chavez now that he's beaten your stablemate Edwin Rosario?
D.R.M., GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

A: I think all those other lightweights should just retire. Chavez is too dangerous to fight.



FOR ARCHIE MOORE
Former light heavyweight champion

Q: How did you manage to box for so many years and not end up punchy?
T.F., BRONX, NY

A: I lasted because I learned to keep my head out of the way of blows. I could take a punch, but it's better to evade them, I always say.

FOR BOB ARUM
Promoter

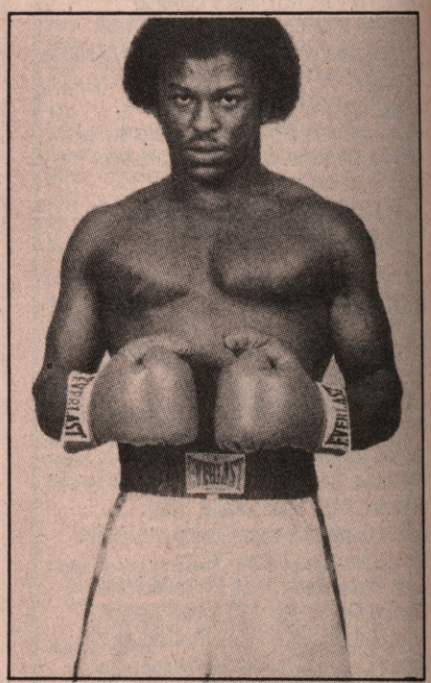
Q: Have you been able to reach an agreement with Marvelous Marvin Hagler concerning a rematch with Thomas Hearns?
Y.M.K., LEXINGTON, KY

A: So far, nobody has been able to sit with Marvin. Nobody has been able to talk with him. He's like a will-of-the-wisp. Not only isn't he available to talk about the subject, he's unavailable for any other subject.

FOR BOBBY FRANKHAM
British light heavyweight

Q: Why did you go crazy and punch referee Richie Davies after he stopped your bout with Billy Sims?
O.S., BAKERSFIELD, CA

A: I just had a brainstorm. I feel ashamed and terrible about it. It was a bad way to get famous.



FOR MICHAEL DOKES
Former WBA heavyweight titleholder

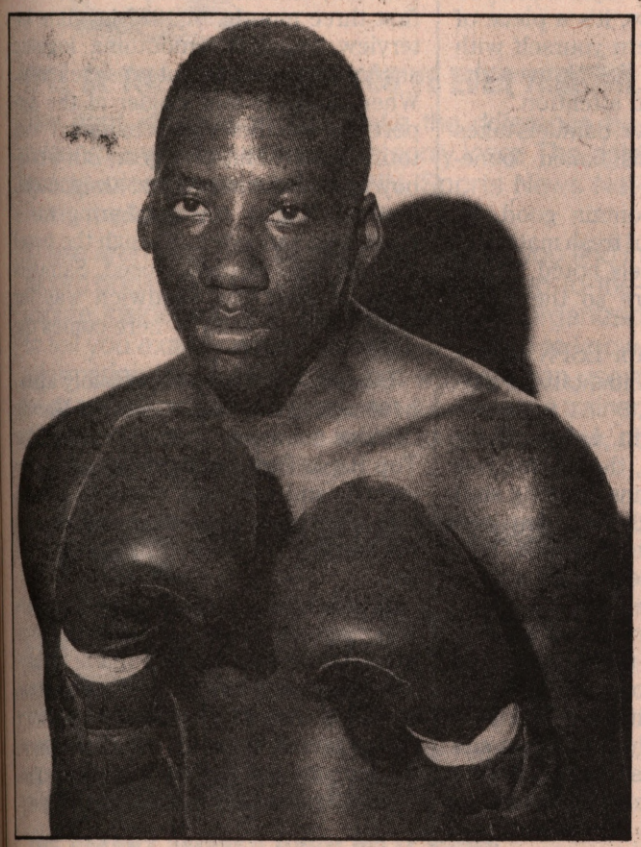
Q: I'm glad you're back in the ring and off drugs. How much money did you blow on cocaine?
R.E., RENO, NV

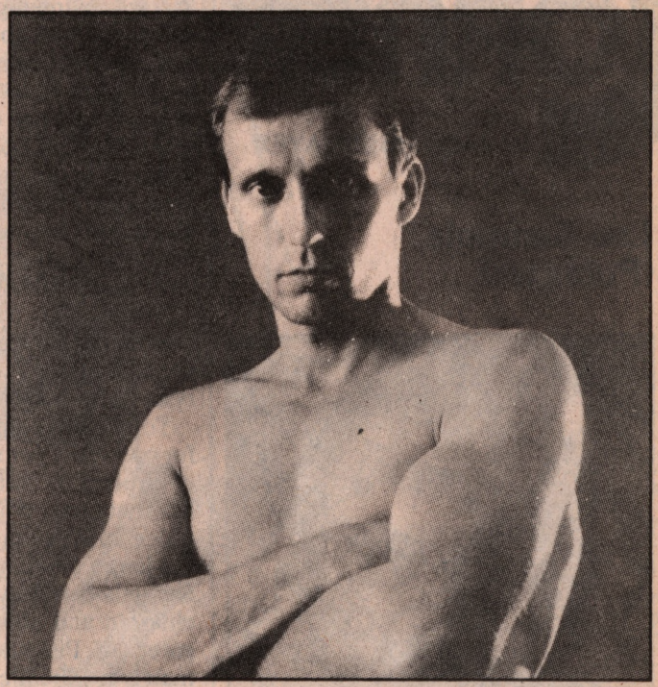
A: I spent $15,000 on drug rehab. What I spent on cocaine, I can't even figure out in dollars and cents. But the money isn't important. The real cost was my honor and integrity.

BOXER SHORTS

ANDRE PROPHET LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

IT SEEMS EVERY TIME YOU LOOK AROUND, THERE'S another good light heavyweight prospect emerging from the fertile Philadelphia breeding grounds. The latest is Andre Prophet, a 6'2" boxer/puncher with an 80" reach ... "With his stalking style, long arms and slingshot punches, Prophet reminds me a little of a novice Bob Foster," said J.R. Jowett, *The Ring's* Philly correspondent ... A senior at Simon Gratz High School, the 19-year-old Prophet turned pro with a first-round kayo over Dale Brown and has proceeded to chalk up three more quick victories to bring his pro log to 4-0 (all knockouts) as we go to press. Victim number three was veteran Nester Flores, who has fought eight and 10-rounders. However, his experience didn't help and Andre belted him out in less than one round ... Prophet trains at George Benton's "Hard Knocks Gym" with an assist from former boxer Dwight Triplett ... Prophet is managed by local businessman Scott Kendall and will probably go to work at Kendall's company (Aluminum Shapes, Inc.) when he graduates from high school. Of course, Prophet's main goal will be achieving his full potential inside the ring. Whether or not he will live up to his early promise remains to be seen, but Jowett thinks he has an excellent chance ... "A lot of guys go out and do what they do best until they run into someone who gives them trouble. Prophet, on the other hand, shows improvement as he goes along. He doesn't rely on youthful vigor alone. His overall presentation gets better each bout." ... A budding Bob Foster? Maybe. We'll just have to wait and see. □





WILLY FEATHERSTONE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

ONE OF THE MOST COURAGEOUS AND UNDER-PUBLICIZED comebacks in recent boxing history has been that of Canadian and British Commonwealth light heavyweight champion Willy Featherstone. Back in January of 1982, Featherstone's pro boxing career came to a screeching halt when he was involved in a motorcycle accident. Willy broke both kneecaps and one vertebra in the wreck. His boxing days seemed over. Nevertheless, following a two-year convalescence, he staged a remarkable comeback, which culminated in 1987 with the winning of both the Canadian and Commonwealth 175-pound titles. He outpointed veteran Roddy MacDonald for the Canadian crown and African Enoch Chama for Commonwealth honors. A resident of Toronto, Featherstone has found a second home in Sydney, Nova Scotia where he filled the 6,500-seat "Center 200" arena for both the MacDonald and Chama bouts ... In his last start, Featherstone, 29, avenged one of the three losses on his pro slate with a unanimous 12-round decision over Danny Lindstrom, defending both belts in the process. The victory raised his log to 19-3 with 10 KOs ... When Featherstone launched his comeback, all he really wanted to do was win the Canadian title and retire. However, now that things are rolling along so well, Willy wants a crack at one of the world champs, preferably fellow Canadian Donny Lalonde ... "We had Lalonde's name on a contract three times when he was Canadian champion," said Raymond Rutter, Featherstone's manager. "He always ducked out and was finally stripped. We would love nothing better than to fight him for the WBC title." □

IN THIS CORNER

by JACK OBERMAYER

Lee Samuels (Publicist)

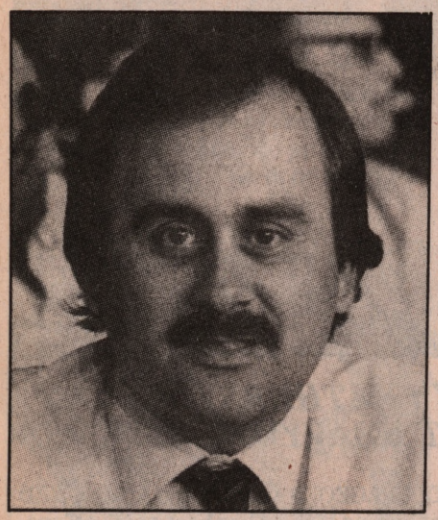


PHOTO BY WINNING EXPOSURE

AS ASSOCIATE PUBLICIST, LEE Samuels plays a major role in keeping Top Rank, Inc. boxing's version of a well-oiled packaging/promotional team.

Samuels handles the daily servicing of the ESPN account, be it Las Vegas, Atlantic City or a wildcard location, plus occasional major network shows. And, for a real treat, Samuels gets to spend a few months away from his own little ones to baby-sit the likes of Marvin Hagler or John Mugabi at their training sites.

Known at ringside as "Mr. Sunshine," Samuels is always first to voice concern over the welfare of the press contingent with his customary "everything okay?" greeting. For Samuels knows what it's like to be a working scribe.

A Top Rank employee since 1982, Samuels had worked as a sports reporter since his high school days. Eventually, he worked his way up from small-town weeklies to the late, lamented *Philadelphia Bulletin*, where he covered his first major fight — Muhammad Ali-Leon Spinks, I — in Las Vegas in 1978. However, within five years the *Bulletin* lost its war with the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, going out of business.

"I worked all my life to get there, no way was I jumping ship," said Samuels, who remained aboard until the bitter end, a painful demise eased somewhat by substantial severance pay.

Though he had covered other sports at the *Bulletin*, boxing, Samuels' major interest, came to the rescue. Local promoter Frank Gelb put Samuels in touch with Bob Arum and, after a six-month probation period, Samuels was on board to stay with Top Rank.

"Arum hires very, very carefully," said Samuels. "He's been very fair, but demanding, and the employees have been fiercely loyal."

Top Rank's contract with ESPN calls for one show per week, many of which take place in Atlantic City's Resorts International, where Samuels shares office space with Gelb Promotions. A life-long resident of New Jersey, Samuels currently resides with his five children and adoring wife, Mary-Margaret, in Pitman, which is approximately a 120-mile round trip.

"My problem comes when shows pile up," said Samuels. "We've had as many as three in three days. When you work a network show, it's a piece of cake. You only concern yourself with the main event. With ESPN, even the four-rounders demand attention."

Being a former writer, Samuels takes particular pride in his famed "bone-crackler" press kits.

"My fact sheets contain good, insightful info and a lot of fresh material," the 41-year-old Samuels noted. "All is done the night before so the ESPN crew can read it over."

Samuels includes, for ESPN only, a bio list with certain incidentals for television chit-chat.

The day of the fight, Leroy, as his best friends call him, though his real name is Richard, begins his long shift by patroling the weigh-in for any late-breaking news. In the afternoon, he'll touch up the PM guide plus get a jump on the next show's release.

But, there are other duties as well. Samuels has to keep track of the ring mats Top Rank has floating around the country, the ones with the Bud logo displayed prominently on canvas and ring posts. As Samuels recalled, in Fort Worth in 1983 the Bud mat could not be shipped in time for the Donald Curry-Jun-Sok Hwang WBA welterweight title bout. A local painter had to be called in on a Sunday to paint the Bud name where necessary.

"Here it was 5:30 in Texas and we had grown men with hair dryers blowing the paint job dry," recalled Samuels with a laugh. "As it was, we had to push back the start of the card to be sure tha paint was dry."

Trunks usually don't have to be painted, but sometimes it might help.

"I have to make sure the trunks are different," said Samuels. "It sounds like a very basic thing, but our Neilsen ratings show that if the trunks are the same, people will turn the channel no matter what."

Once the show starts, Samuels keeps busy greeting and seating the working press and taking notes of his own. For after the show he's on the phone with wire services, area papers who do not send reporters and papers from the home towns of participants. Finally, at about one a.m., the last writer has filed and Samuels can close up the press room and relax.

A devout family man, Samuels finds one of the drawbacks to his position is time spent away from his family. As Marvin Hagler prepared for his match with Ray Leonard, Samuels spent the first three months of 1987 juggling interview requests, smoothing logistic snafus and pumping out press releases. When Samuels met Hagler at the airport, the middleweight champion was toting much of his own gear. But a busboy was not Samuels' first assignment. Instead, Hagler was hankering for a roast beef sandwich. Though the hotel kitchen was already closed, Samuels made it clear the sandwich was for Hagler and — voila — here comes the beef.

Samuels said he will probably again be assigned the Hagler camp if Marvin decides to meet Thomas Hearns for Top Rank. But that fight has yet to be signed, and Samuels enjoyed a rare, one week, stay-at-home vacation with his family over the recent holiday season.

It didn't last long, and soon Samuels was back at the grind. However, one important decision was made. Mary-Margaret, who has always been afraid of flying, has finally decided to take advantage of Arum's open invitation to accompany her husband to Las Vegas. Naturally, Samuels couldn't be happier. □

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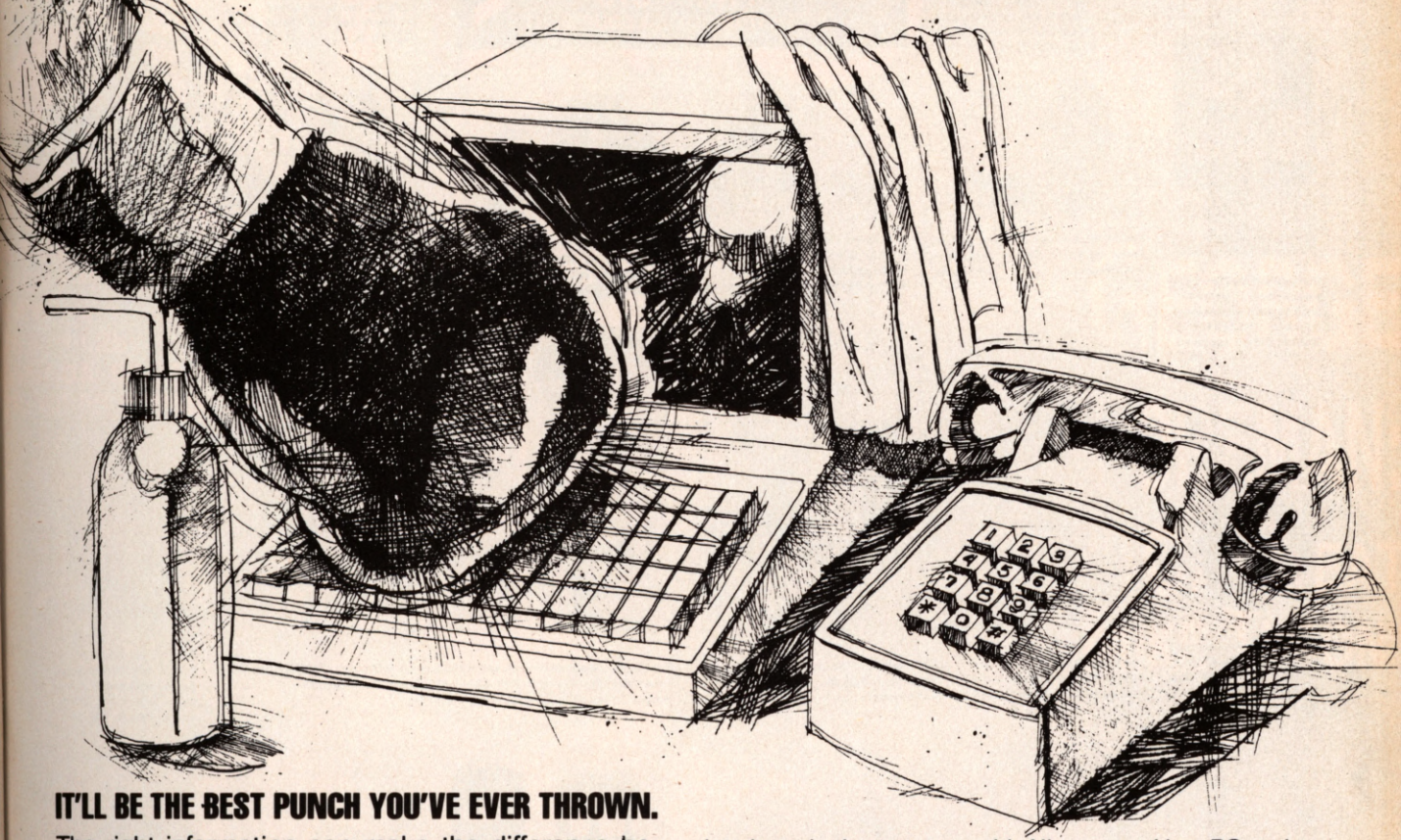

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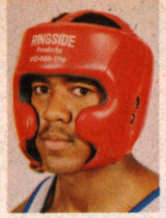

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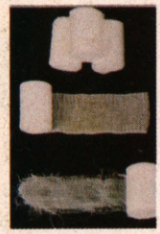

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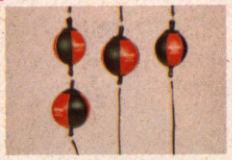

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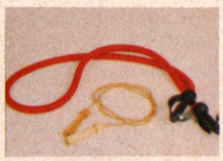

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